the Richmond Review

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USF Hosts Inclusive Basketball Program

Carlton Linguard Jr. (left) is a 7-foot-tall student at USF working on his master's degree. He poses with Alirose Genser. *Photo by Beth Lederer.*

By Beth Lederer

The excitement that reverberated within the halls of the Sobrato Center at University of San Francisco (USF) was contagious. Around 100 energetic and enthusiastic children and youth, both neurotypical and neurodiverse, partook in the E-Hoops San Francisco Inclusive Basketball Fall Clinic. The participants came to have fun, to play basketball and feel empowered, all while gaining fundamental basketball skills, learning discipline, patience and building friendships.

The clinic ran for five Sundays, from Sept. 8 to Oct. 6, at the well-maintained War Memorial Gym. The gym is decorated with banners that highlight past NCAA national championships.

The participants' ages ranged from toddlers to 17 years. The E-Hoops program only allows for athletes over 17 to continue on if they have specified special needs. Additionally, the basketball clinics are free to the participants' families.

E-Hoops is celebrating its 10th year of providing equitable and inclusive basketball in San Francisco. The program has seen ex-

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D1 Supe Candidate Alleges Assault

By Paul Kozakiewicz

District 1 supervisorial candidate Marjan Philhour's attempt to get a restraining order against Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners president David Heller has been postponed until Dec. 10.

Philhour tried to get an emergency restraining order against Heller for allegedly grabbing her arm during a League of Women Voters debate at the Internet Archive on Sept. 16.

Heller said he did not remember touching Philhour but when she said, "Don't touch me," he approached a couple of minutes later and said, "I'm sorry I touched you, if I touched you."

Philhour did not accept the apology and took her argument to the Superior Court, where Superior Court Judge Michelle Tong said Philhour's arguments did not rise to the level of issuing an emergency restraining order.

"The facts as stated in form CH-100 do not sufficiently show acts of violence, threats of violence, or a course of conduct that seriously alarmed, annoyed, or harassed (Philhour) and caused substantial emotional distress," Tong determined.

The judge set Oct. 10 as the date to hear further arguments concerning the court-issued restraining order.

But, on Oct. 10 Philhour told Tong that she had just hired attorney Eileen Burke the day before the hearing and that Burke needed more time to review the case. The judge suggested a court date at the end of October but Burke said she had a month-long case in Sacramento and was not available until the end of November. The judge set a Dec. 10 date to further review Philhour's request for a restraining order.

In her complaint, Philhour also accuses Heller of "lung-

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Breed's and Weiner's Upzoning Plan Criticized by Advocates

By Thomas K. Pendergast

Efforts by State Sen. Scott Wiener and San Francisco Mayor London Breed to rapidly increase the City's housing supply are getting roasted by advocates, activists and politicians concerned about land speculators fattening their portfolios at the expense of small business owners and residential tenants.

"We'd like to prevent the displacement of small businesses and currently affordable rental housing which are the consequences of when you do blanket upzoning and you don't have a thoughtful way to grow housing in the City," said Lori Brooke of Neighborhoods United SF, which she said is made up of 60 neighborhood associations across the City now pushing back against Breed's proposal to upzone major commercial corridors throughout the west side of the City.

Upzoning is a term used to describe changes to zoning codes made for increasing the amount of development allowed in the future on any given parcel. In the Richmond District, for example, the standard zoning for most parcels is 40-feet tall or four stories.

"We want to promote affordable workforce housing, which is the moderate, low and very-low-income units. We want to push for smart, affordable growth without overbuilding the luxury housing," Brooke said.

They also want to "reset" the housing crisis narrative.

"San Francisco faces an affordability shortage, not a housing-unit crisis," she said.

Breed's upzoning would increase the height of buildings

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HI NRG Coffee Pops Up in High Treason on Clement

By Linda Badger

Clement Street has long been a cherished Richmond District destination. Neighbors and visitors browse Green Apple Books, grab dim sum or a hot bowl of Pho on a foggy day, and wheel their carts and kids to the Farmers Market on Sunday mornings.

While many businesses have struggled post-pandemic, the forward-thinkers at High Treason Wine Bar (443 Clement St.) have found an innovative way to maximize the use of their space by hosting a popular new pop-up, HI NRG coffee.

Luis Gonzalez (left) and Nathan Kruse, founders of HI NRG. *Photo by Andy Fischer.*

Luis Gonzalez and Nathan Kruse, founders of HI NRG, began selling their specialty coffee drinks at High Treason in June of this year. Michael Ireland, a co-owner of High Treason, attributes the coffee pop-up idea "100% to the boys." Gonzalez and Kruse, who live a block away from the wine bar, were regulars at High Treason, stopping by in the evenings for a glass of wine. A few months ago, they arrived with two thermoses of their coffee and a proposal to sell it at High Treason during the day when the wine bar was closed. Ireland, a self-proclaimed coffee snob, said the coffee was "amazing," and remembers giving Luis and Nathan an enthusiastic "Let's do it!"

Open for business from Thursday through Sunday, Luis and Kruse wheel their espresso machine a short block from their home to High Treason. They sell their espresso drinks, filtered coffees and a special cinnamon cappuccino (Café de Olla), from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., getting in and out before the wine bar opens at 4 p.m.

At first, Gonzalez and Kruse served coffee out of the front window of the wine bar.

"It was nice to see the lines forming outside," said Ireland. Then someone complained about their sidewalk window operation. As a result, High Treason decided to fully support the pop-up. HI NRG has moved its coffee brewing operation inside, where custom-

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Costume and Set Design Take Center Stage at Legion of Honor Exhibit

By Noma Faingold

The Legion of Honor kicks off its yearlong centennial celebration with an almost non-stop weekend of free performances, exhibits, educational talks and art activities, Nov. 9-11.

What should not get lost in deluge of culture is the new exhibition titled, "Dress Rehearsal: The Art of Theatrical Design," which spotlights costume and set design in the history of theater and dance.

Natalia Lauricella, assistant curator of Prints and Drawings at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF), had one of the largest collections in the United States from which to choose, centuries of delicate, rarely seen drawings and designs by important artists from different eras, including:

- Ballets Russes designer Léon Bakst (1908-1996).
- Avant-garde painters Natalia Sergeevna Goncharova (1881-1962) and Pablo Picasso (1881-1973).
- Cubo-futurist and Art Deco influencer Alexandra Exter (1882-1949).
- French painter/printmaker Marie Laurencin (1883-1956).
- Contemporary Canadian artist Marcel Dzama, best known for designs created for the New York City Ballet and represented by a 2015 work in the Legion show.

"The exhibit is specific, but these are stunning works," Lauricella said. "I think people will be excited to see it. They are colorful. They are ornate. They are exquisitely drawn by major artists who people might recognize. A lot of artists turned their immense talent in graphic arts to the stage."

"Dress Rehearsal" is on view in two galleries: Gallery 22 is devoted to more than 50 theater and dance drawings and etchings, while the Logan Gallery provides a counterpoint with books and print portfolios. Visitors can get up-close to material documenting the artistic process, such as a portfolio on rehearsals and training of ballet dancers or of a particular theatrical production.

The exhibition began to take shape years before Stanford University art history lecturer and postdoctoral teaching fellow Lauricella came to the FAMSF in April. The hardest part for Lauricella, who grew up in San Francisco and currently lives in the Inner Sunset District, was narrowing down the hundreds of works on paper in order to tell a story tracing the changes in costume and set design from what she refers to as the "early modern period" to the present.

"We have so many great ones. I wanted to show as much as I could, as far as a chronological timeline, where you can see amazing developments in stage design and tell a very visual story," she said. "Some works are final products but many are working drawings. It gives you insight into a designer's or artist's working method. There's excitement in the process of creation. Artists are trying to figure out how to bring these designs to life. It's a little bit of behind the scenes."

Placing Ballets Russes (1909-1929), the renowned dance company that began in Paris and toured all over the world, at the center of the exhibit is a nod to Alma de Bretteville Spreckels (1881–1968), co-founder of the Legion, who had a passionate interest in works related to the Ballets Russes troupe, which were donated to the museum from her personal collection.

Natalia Lauricella, assistant curator of Prints and Drawings at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF), in front of the Legion of Honor. ***Photo by Noma Faingold.***

"The centennial of the Legion is a wonderful excuse to finally put this material on view," Lauricella said.

Upon entering Gallery 22, a tutu designed by Bakst and worn by Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova (1881-1931) is placed dramatically in a clear case, front and center. The costume was worn in performances of the "Dying Swan."

"Bakst was one of the greatest designers of the 20th century. We have rare drawings by him, which we are also planning to include," Lauricella said.

"Dress Rehearsal" focuses on a number of female artists, in addition to Exter and Goncharova, including Alice Halika of Poland (1894-1975) American surrealist painter, printmaker, sculptor, writer and poet Dorothea Tanning (1910-2012) and Argentine-Italian surrealist painter, designer and illustrator Leanor Fini (1907-1996).

Several of Ukrainian Exter's avant-garde pochoir works (hand colored silkscreen printmaking) will be on display. Even though created in the 1930s, the vibrant series of geometric compositions are examples of futuristic set design.

There are also drawings of two modern dance pioneers with local connections, Loie Fuller (1862-1928), who was a friend of Spreckels, and the naturalistic, improvisational Isadora Duncan (1877-1927), who was born and raised in San Francisco.

"The show has a focus on ballet but I was eager to have non-traditional dance styles incorporated," Lauricella said.

"Dress Rehearsal: The Art of Theatrical Design," opens Nov. 9 and runs through May 11, 2025, at the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave. Centennial weekend, Nov. 9-11, featuring performances, exhibitions and art activities, is free. Learn more at famsf.org.

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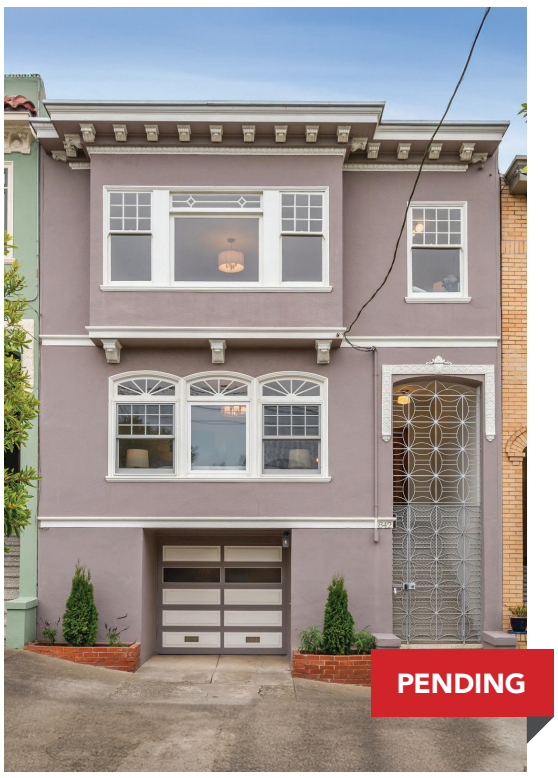

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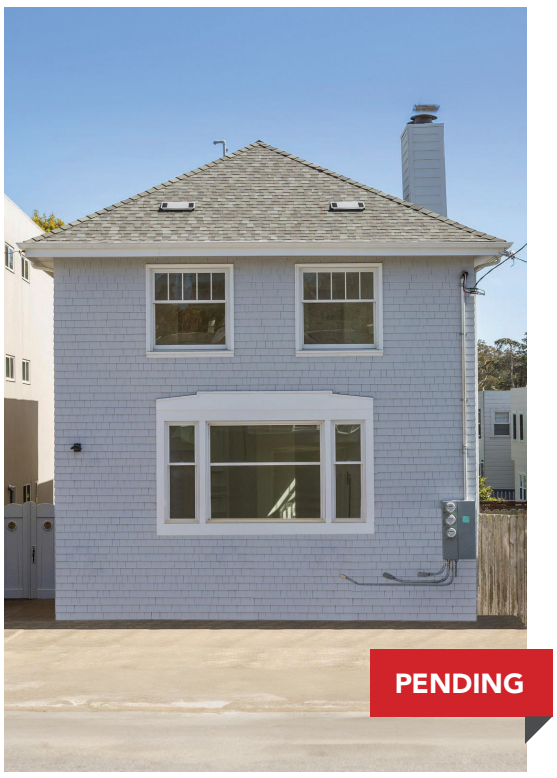

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Digital Bulletin Board Proposed to Take the Place of News Racks

By John Ferrannini

San Francisco is known for technological innovation – so when newsracks began disappearing around town due to an expired contract, Julia Gitis decided to use technology to change the face of local news in the City.

Gitis, who leads the Support SF Schools team at SF Civic Tech (formerly Code for San Francisco), wants to install digital bulletin boards across the City. She recently set up a pop-up bulletin board in the West Portal neighborhood to use to gauge community interest in the project, which she calls the Community News Lab.

"This is just a prototype," she said, pointing to the TV screen functioning as a digital bulletin board, showing articles from local newspapers as well as upcoming events citywide. "I want to start with West Portal. This is where I first got the idea for the project, and I think it's a really compelling place. You can still see the bolts on the ground where the print news racks used to be."

Clear Channel Outdoor's 20-year contract to run the news racks was not renewed by the City. Gitis said there were up to 2,000 locations in that contract.

"For the most part, these are all gone. I'm looking to do this separate from Clear Channel," she said. "Part of what motivates me is having a nonprofit alternative to Clear Channel.

The end of the print news racks causes a headache for local newspaper publishers, including Michael Yamashita of the Bay Area Reporter, San Francisco's LGBTQ newspaper, as the remaining news racks will be removed by the end of the year.

Julia Gitis, founder of the Community News Lab, shows a digital bulletin board for local news she's working on and a posterboard of community feedback on her project in the West Portal neighborhood.

Gitis said Yamashita expressed interest in the project.

"First of all, it would give us visibility as a local newspaper partner," Yamashita said. "Eventually, if it's successful, it could mean a small revenue stream for the public and the City. But these are longterm goals."

In the meantime, Yamashita is ramping up distribution at the indoor locations his newspaper can be found, such as in the Castro neighborhood.

Gitis has been in discussions with the offices of District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar (whose district includes West Portal) and District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman (whose district includes the Castro).

"Julia is amazingly creative and has done an amazing job of outreach in West Portal," Michael R. Farrah Jr., a legislative aide to Melgar, said. "She has found new ways to build community with better communication and it is hard not to be in favor of that. We look forward to working with her on next steps."

A spokesperson for Mandelman confirmed that the topic was raised but they have not had the opportunity to discuss the subject in depth.

Gitis said her effort is an independent one.

"This is a new nonprofit I'm trying to start," she said. "As we move forward, I'll fill out the paperwork to be official."

Gitis said the public in West Portal seemed most interested in the upcoming events part of the digital bulletin board. But in the Bayview, people were more interested in community resources, she said.

"I think in neighborhoods where people are looking for jobs, there are more requests for community resources and support on the screens as well," she said. "People here really like arts, pets and fun things. The idea is to always partner with the neighborhood association, the merchant's association and community leaders that are there to source the content for the screen."

The price tag will depend on the vendors, Gitis said.

"There are different vendors selling different ones, so I don't know which one we're going to purchase yet," she said. "I'm talking to the supervisor's (Melgar's) office here; I'm talking, in the Castro, with Mike Yamashita to Mandelman about it. It'll be expensive. It will probably be tens of thousands of dollars, but there is a revenue opportunity of putting an ad on the back. If you look at companies like Clear Channel, they're a billion-dollar corporation based on the ads on the backs of everything."

Prevention of vandalism and destruction is also a factor to be considered when choosing a vendor.

"Vandalism's probably the number one feedback I get," Gitis said. "We'll go with the industry standard. There are lots of screens in public spaces in different cities."

HI NRG Brews at High Treason

Continued from page 1

ers have a stylish, comfortable place to sit and sip their coffee while listening to High Treason's impressive LP collection. HI NRG is "going gangbusters," said Ireland, who "loves being an incubator" for a new local business.

Ireland understands what it takes to start a business. In 2012, he and his partner, John Vuong, working as sommeliers at high-end restaurants (The French Laundry, Meadowood, Quince, Gary Danko and Ame), were looking to open a business of their own. Both men had just become fathers and realized they could not raise their children while working the 60- to 80-hour workweeks demanded by three-star Michelin restaurants. They wanted to leave that world behind and open a wine bar that "broke all the rules," hence the name, High Treason.

The partners came up with a list of things they hated most about traditional wine bars and looked for a space on Clement Street, which Ireland loved and considered "the place to be."

"We burned all our suits," Ireland said, and created a wine bar where customers can come, dressed as they are in hoodies and jeans and enjoy a great wine along with a casual bite, without breaking the bank. Unlike traditional wine bars, High Treason always pours its customers a taster before they are obligated to pay for the glass.

The concept was a success, and the partners have shared their success with others. Besides the HI NRG pop-up, High Treason has partnered with another pop-up, Unco Frank's, to prepare food for its wine bar customers.

"Unco Frank," is Frank Hau, a Hawaiian chef, who had previously worked at Gary Danko. Ireland noted that the crispy, salty, spicy Hawaiian food pairs well with wine, as well as with the casual atmosphere they envisioned for High Treason. The pop-up idea brings in some extra cash for High Treason and there is also some cross-pollination going on, bringing new customers to the space.

Ultimately, Gonzalez and Kruse hope to establish their own coffee shop. Ireland is confident that they will be a big success when they do. They are "super coffee geeks," he said.

Gonzalez and Kruse have worked in Bay Area coffee shops for years, spending two years at The Coffee Movement, another Richmond District specialty coffee destination located at 1737 Balboa St. After learning as much as they could about the craft of coffee making, Luis and Nathan took the plunge to start their own business.

HI NRG specializes in brewing naturally processed Ethiopian coffees selected because of their "extremely distinct blueberry, strawberry or even kumquat-like flavors." According to Luis, when coffee beans are naturally processed the coffee "cherry" is left on the bean to ferment, which allows the coffee to take in some of the naturally sweet characteristics of the fruit. He noted that how the coffee is brewed also makes a difference, and at HI NRG, they brew their coffee very gently and slowly to extract all the flavors. The result is a surprisingly fruity cup of coffee with an intense blueberry or strawberry pop and a sweet, dessert-like quality. The coffee is so distinctive that Gonzalez and Kruse already have a dedicated customer base after only a few months of operating the pop-up.

In addition to working at Bay Area specialty coffee houses, the two partners have traveled to Japan to study the growing coffee culture there. Their "dream business" would reflect the qualities they most admire in the Japanese coffee shops they have visited, including, said Luis, "absolute dedication to our craft, intentionality behind every drink and a space where one can forget about the troubles of the outside world and enjoy a beverage.

"The Richmond District is our home, and we hope to one day get a brick and mortar on Clement Street," Gonzalez added.

In the meantime, Gonzalez and Kruse said they are grateful to High Treason and the neighborhood for giving them a chance.

"There have been a few hurdles Nathan and I have had to overcome over the last year of HI NRG being a business, but otherwise, the city has given us everything. From our first-ever pop-up we've had people that have been dedicated to us. We have regulars that we've been seeing at almost every event who come into High Treason on a weekly basis. The City is so small, and the coffee community is so tight, that every single person who walks in is either a friend or a friend of a friend, or a new friend waiting to be made. The neighborhood has received us with open arms, and we want to give back that love tenfold."

Learn more about High Treason at hightreasonsf.com. Get more information about HI NRG @hinrg_sf on Instagram.

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Supervisor Connie Chan

Thank You, Phil Ting

I want to take a moment to say THANK YOU to Assemblymember Phil Ting as his final term comes to an end this month.

Last month, my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and I presented a special commendation to thank Assemblymember Ting for his incredible service to San Francisco. I was honored to recognize him in the Board chambers, and even more honored to have worked alongside him to deliver for the Richmond District and so many of our communities these past four years.

Assemblymember Ting has worked for San Franciscans for decades. In 2004, he was appointed as the San Francisco assessor-recorder by then-Mayor Gavin Newsom, serving in that role until he was elected to the Assembly in 2012. As assessor-recorder, Phil Ting conducted the country's first study of mortgage fraud, leading to the discovery of widespread mortgage industry abuse in San Francisco foreclosures and beyond. In the Assembly, he continued his fight for everyday San Franciscans. He has passed consequential legislation over his 12 years in office:

- Advancing environmental protection laws.
- Expanding gun control measures.
- Creating LGBTQ-friendly regulations.
- Helping to rebuild trust between community and public safety agencies through expanded transparency.
- Advancing food security and access to healthy foods.
- Protecting the integrity of higher education by banning legacy admissions.

But I believe it's his work as the California Assembly budget chair that has made the most lasting impact on San Francisco.

During the pandemic, with the rise in anti-Asian sentiment, violence and hate speech against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, Assemblymember Ting created the API Equity Budget as part of the California 2021 State Budget. California allocated $156.5 million to enable non-profits and community-based organizations to provide more resources to victims, including legal services, health and mental care, and victim compensation. We have seen this money directly impact our San Francisco communities.

In 2022, the Board of Supervisors passed my legislation to create an API Equity Fund to help acquire property or make capital improvements to expand the work of API-focused non-profits. Assemblymember Ting expanded on this work, finding state funding to amplify the API Equity Fund, further expanding Community Youth Center (CYC), Self-Help for the Elderly, Chinese Cultural Center, the API Culture Center and KulArts, the Richmond Area Multi-Services (RAMS) Center, the renovation of the Japantown Peace Plaza and so many more projects throughout San Francisco

This past month alone, we had three groundbreaking ceremonies for API Equity Fund beneficiaries – the API Culture Center and KulArts, the Bayanihan Equity Center and the Southeast Asian Development Center. All three organizations were able to find a permanent home and expand their community-serving space by leveraging local investments like the API Equity Fund with other fund sources, all thanks to the support of Assemblymember Phil Ting.

Even, and especially, in a time of budget deficits, we have to be smart with our public dollars. Assemblymember Ting had the vision to know that stabilizing our critical community services is what guarantees that our communities will have the services they need for generations to come, no matter the economic outlook.

So, while I will miss my mentor, Phil Ting, in the Assembly, we will see him everywhere in San Francisco; when we pass the Japantown Peace Plaza, seek services from RAMS, or enjoy a show at KulArts, we have Assemblymember Ting to thank. And we will continue to see his amazing investments in our community come to fruition for years to come.

I know he will continue to serve San Francisco as he has his whole career, but for now, I just want to say, thank you, Assemblymember Phil Ting, for always uniTING and fighTING for our community.

Connie Chan represents District 1 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at 415-554-7410 or chanstaff@sfgov.org.

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Real Estate

John M. Lee

Election Effect on Real Estate

I am writing this in late October as we look to see what the November election will bring us. The presidential race has been brutal and currently in a statistical tie as far as the polls show.

It is too bad the results will depend on only a few swing states. Whatever the outcome is this November, let's look at how presidential elections affect real estate and what we can expect in the real estate market.

I have commented many times in this column that incumbent presidents will do all they can to insure a strong economy during election years, thus helping their re-election back into the office. If termed out or not running again themselves, they can use a strong economy to try to elect someone else from their own political party.

President Joe Biden's actions the past couple of years illustrate this point well. Our economy has rebounded from the recession of the pandemic. Inflation finally has come down and interest rates are decreasing. The stock markets have been hitting all-time highs this year. Unemployment is down and the economy is doing better. It seems like Biden has done all he can to make sure the economy is firing on all cylinders heading into this year's election – initially for him but now for Vice President Kamala Harris.

But specifically, how do the presidential election and fiscal and monetary policies affect our housing market? I went to the archives and researched the historical returns of the Dow Jones Industrial average (DJIA) and real estate appreciation in California and San Francisco. The data are presented in the attached chart. I used DJIA and California single-family home data from 1968 to the present. I was only able to find appreciation numbers for San Francisco from 1982 to the present. Nevertheless, it gives us a correlation on how well the economy and our real estate market performs with respect to the presidential cycle.

Presidents serve four-year terms, and our assumption is they would really want the economy to be performing well going into election years. Remember the phrase Clinton made famous running against Bush? "It's the economy, stupid!" I have been reading about it more and more lately, and I am sure that all presidential candidates are well aware of it.

If you look at the chart, the number that jumps out is the return on the DJIA averages 15.71% during the presidential pre-election years. It is about twice as high as any other year. The midterm years are low. During the first year of a presidential term, the president has the benefit of a good economy and implements their programs or discontinues the ones he doesn't like. In the second year of his term, if it goes well, he can take credit. If it goes badly, he can blame the previous administration. In the third year or pre-election year, he better be sure to kick the economy into gear or risk losing re-election. The election year is where everything is more stable and trending up. These numbers confirm our supposition that there is a conscious effort to bolster our economy going into the election.

If we examine the home appreciation in California and San Francisco, our prices follow the general DJIA. This is also logical as real estate is a lagging indicator, meaning it will go up after the economy has rebounded and jobs have been created. Real estate appreciation is usually the function of a strong job market. Thus, if we believe what history is telling us, we should have good appreciation these next few years.

Currently, our real estate market is moving along steadily and uneventfully. The mortgage rate actually went up a little in October after the Federal Reserves dropped the rates in September because lenders had already anticipated the move and acted accordingly.

We will have an exciting election on Nov. 5. If you have not voted already, I encourage you to go and vote!

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Richmond Homes Sold in October*

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Price
6918 Fulton St.	2	2	1,655	$1,100,000
466 31st Ave.	3	1.5	1,700	1,320,000
652 Fourth Ave.	2	1	1,015	1,400,000
583 41st Ave.	3	3	1,310	1,520,000
2720 Balboa St.	3	1.5	1,757	1,835,000
860 43rd Ave.	4	2	2,279	1,880,000
507 17th Ave.	6	3	2,710	2,100,000
837 26th Ave.	3	3.5	2,685	2,820,000
231 Eighth Ave.	5	4.5	4,439	3,865,000
1818 Lake St.	4	3.5	3,417	4,700,000

**Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.*

Annual % Change in Year of Presidency

	DJIA	CA Homes	SF Homes
Election Year	+5.9%	+6.25%	+7.8%
Post-Election Year	8.15	9.31	8.1
Midterm Year	2.42	7.35	6.27
Pre-Election Year	15.71	6.23	2.42

DJIA and CA Homes - Data from 1968 - present
SF Homes - Data from 1982 - present

Keep the Great Highway Open for Everyone

The Upper Great Highway is for pedestrians, cyclists AND MOTORISTS.

Vote "NO" on Prop. K because:

• It was created in secrecy with the signatures of five SF supervisors. There was no advance notice to community and business organizations.

• There have been no environmental impact studies undertaken to determine the affects of 13,000-20,000 vehicles a day using side streets.

• Prop. K would encourage the construction of high-rises the length of Ocean Beach.

• There is no park! There are no plans for removing the sand necessary for a park, much less creating one.

• Families and veterans need this vital transportation link.

Vote "No" on Prop. K

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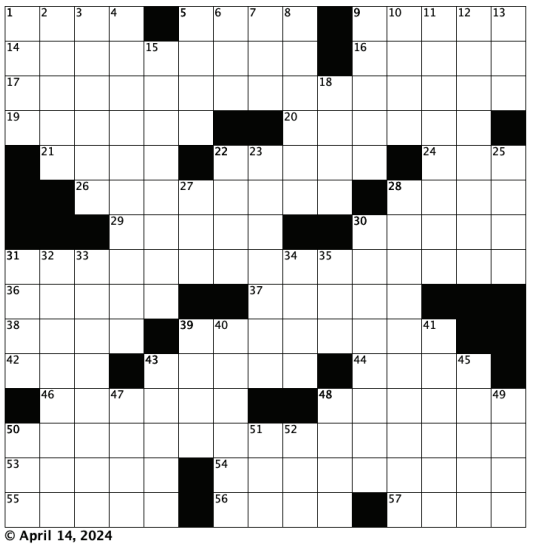
Find more online: RichmondSunsetNews.com

Themeless **Jess Goldstein**



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ACROSS
1. Age well
5. Beyoncé album featuring "Check On It"
9. Yemeni capital
14. Partners in crime, say
16. Biting
17. Certain city building requirements
19. Light breakfast
20. Frightens away
21. Recipe approximation
22. Book club leader
24. Body that's out of this world?
26. "O'Hare is the crosswords of the nation," for example
28. Tennis surface
29. Nomo of baseball
30. Outline
31. One who smokes pot but doesn't drink alcohol, slangily
36. Transport subject of a new federal tax credit bill
37. Burden bearer
38. European city setting for a 2002 Mary-Kate and Ashley movie
39. Moves on, as from a grudge
42. St. crosser
43. "Obsessed" singer Mariah
44. Website featuring "Gwyneth's Picks"
46. Latin list ender
48. Au ___!
50. Noted Versailles resident
53. "The Neapolitan Novels" writer Ferrante
54. Home office, at times
55. Discover, bit by bit
56. Shrek-like creature
57. Bose rival

DOWN
1. Cosmetic surgery, for short
2. "Winners Take All" author Giridharadas
3. React to a horror movie, or a certain horror movie
4. Gets lost?
5. "Parasite" director Joon-ho
6. Pit or lab
7. Dough dispenser
8. San ___, California
9. Biblical speaking verb
10. Highest level
11. 1998 Nasa mission conducted to study the effects of space travel on the brain
12. "This Ain't a Scene, it's an ___" (Fall Out Boy song)
13. Crunch targets
15. Miller's signature beer
18. Half-moon tide
22. Letters on 0, on an old phone
23. Rotate an ankle while running
25. "Nailed It!" host Nicole
27. Big fuss
28. Subaru Outbacks and Kia Souls
30. "Empty your water bottles!" crier
31. "Barbie" actor Michael
32. More than anything else
33. Where to find and pick green fruit
34. Teeny-tiny
35. Mont Blanc, e.g.
39. Goddess of the earth
40. "Bragh" preceder in an Irish saying
41. A bit much, and then some
43. Not explicit
45. Climber's spike
47. Land, in Lana'i
48. It may be high or low, for jeans
49. Chef in "Ratatouille"
50. Alcott heroine
51. Small boat
52. Above, in an anthem

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San Francisco Chronicle

ENDORSEMENT

Philhour for District 1 supervisor

San Francisco's District 1 supervisor race features a rematch of two main candidates: Incumbent Connie Chan and challenger Marjan Philhour, who were separated in the 2019 race by only 125 votes.

Widely considered one of the most progressive supervisors on the board, Cha[illegible] will have a more difficult path to victory after th[illegible]ndaries were moved to add voters who are li[illegible] Cliff neighborh[illegible]

Philhour

a say in what comes into their community."

Contrast that approach wit[illegible] Philhour, wh[illegible] has an urban[illegible] f city early ansit- in a been In an iew, Phil- committed f bringing h her — g obstruc- dvocates rticularly levard nond perienced worked for

"Her commitment to District 1 is obvious. She was born in the Richmond ... [and] her platform has remained consistent ... with a focus on smart density, public safety and helping small business corridors."

"Marjan Philhour has the experience, the policy platform, and the deep community knowledge to make her a highly effective Supervisor."

after the pandemic a[illegible] behest of some district residents. And she was the author of 2022's Proposition E, because she believ[illegible] balanced approach of allowing our communities have politico [illegible] several U.S. House members, including former Penisula Rep. Tom Lantos, and in the California governor's office [illegible] senior advis[illegible] [illegible]ocian assista[illegible] would bring a valuable medical background to the board. She's passionate about pedestrian and cyclist safety, supports more robust public transportation options in the district and believes we need to move quickly to create infrastructure that protects people navigating city streets. She supports upzoning along [illegible] transit corridors or [illegible] make her a highly [illegible]ective supervisor.

We endorse her for the District 1 seat.

Reach the editorial board with a letter to the editor at www.sfchronicle.com/submit-your-opinion.

Marjan Philhour is the ONLY candidate for Richmond District Supervisor endorsed by the SAN FRANCISCO DEMOCRATIC PARTY and SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS.

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	MARJAN PHILHOUR 邁珍	RICHMOND RESIDENTS 列治文區選民	INCUMBENT CONNIE CHAN 陳詩敏
'24 PROP B - COP TAX 24年 B提案 — 警務稅	✗	✗	✓
'24 PROP C - DOWNTOWN REVIVAL 24年 C提案 — 市中心復興	✓	✓	✗
'24 PROP E - TOOLS FOR POLICE OFFICERS 24年 E提案 — 警具配備	✓	✓	✗
'24 PROP F - SUBSTANCE-USE V. CASH ASSISTANCE 24年 F提案 — 現金獎勵戒毒	✓	✓	✗
'24 DEMOCRATIC PARTY - CHANGE SLATE 24年 民主黨新人換屆	✓	✓	✗
'23 FULL $27M POLICE OVERTIME SUPPLEMENTAL 23年 兩千七百萬警察加班補貼	✓	✓	✗
'22 SCHOOL BOARD RECALL 22年 罷免校區教育委員	✓	✓	✗
'22 DISTRICT ATTORNEY RECALL 22年 罷免地方檢察官	✓	✓	✗
'22 PROP E - AFFORDABLE HOUSING POISON PILL 22年 E提案 — 可負擔房屋毒丸	✗	✗	✓

Paid for by Vote Marjan Philhour for Supervisor 2024. Financial disclosures are available at sfethics.org.

Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

It is Time For Voters to Decide

Many readers will be inoculated by this column's volubility, and many will explore it for blunders which render my observations and information subject to judgment and even criticism. It has been observed that criticism from a friend is better than flattery from an enemy. I bear no malice because the person who is not criticized isn't breathing. You might avoid criticism by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing.

In that spirit, I remind our City Hall geniuses on the second floor, we pay them expecting policy decisions. Instead, this month we encounter 15 ballot measures from them, several of which, like Proposition K (forbidding private motor vehicles from the Upper Great Highway) could have been enacted (or rejected) by the Board of Supervisors and mayor, plus 10 from state government which include five by the legislature and five by voter initiatives. It's fortunate the supervisors empowered voters to stop any vehicle on a structure for which taxpayers (not bicyclists) paid, because I think Prop. K will fail thanks to residents like Judi Gorski on 48th Avenue. May we be so fortunate with Proposition D's approval to limit City Hall commissions to 65!

For those of us who value legal immigration, Arizona voters would authorize local police (not just border patrol or state officers) to arrest illegal immigrants. (The "mainstream media" like the N.Y. Times describes them as "undocumented" immigrants, implying such lawbreakers forgot their papers at home that morning before sneaking into the U.S. of A.) Amendments to limit voting to U.S. citizens in all local and state elections will pass or fail in Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Wisconsin, but not in California where minors can vote for board of education candidates. Colorado, Florida, Georgia and New Mexico voters can reduce or limit property taxes, and a North Dakota initiative would abolish them entirely. Stay tuned, California.

Do you recall my noting that the S.F. Bicycle Coalition has been given $5.5 million of taxpayer money this budget year and $5.5 million next year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) for a "program" entitled "Safe Streets." An example exists with expenditure of over $1 million as of Sept. 11, 2024, on configuration of Valencia Street bicycle lanes by SFMTA which proclaims January 2025 as "launch window" for its new abuse of motorists and merchants. If tax money can be squandered, SFMTA will find a way to do it.

Peter Fatooh, a real estate appraiser and former Assessment Appeals Board commissioner, invites attention to current practices in the Assessor's Office which should be investigated by the Grand Jury or the White Collar Crime Unit of District Attorney Brooks Jenkins. A Noe Valley native, Mr. Fatooh asserts City Administrator Carmen Chu isn't fit to audit the Assessor's Office because she had her residence's property taxes reduced by then Assessor Phil Ting four years consecutively without Chu even filing a reduction request! After her appointment as assessor, she reduced her own residence property tax unilaterally without filing an appeal. Fatooh then requested relevant public records of that reduction. The city attorney represented Chu and waited over eight weeks, then denied the taxpayer's request. The Ethics Committee refused to act, claiming lack of jurisdiction.

The assessor's real estate appraisers now can't be found in their office on City Hall's first floor. The epidemic is over except in Assessor Joaquin Torres's office where taxpayers can't find appraisers to discuss real estate valuation options with a home-owning taxpayer. And there have been reductions in value (and consequent property tax reduction) of assessor office employees without any appeal being filed. Can you imagine?

With over 115 commissions, Proposition D on the Nov. 5 ballot demands passage. It's regrettable taxpayers must perform Board of Supervisors' obligation for "good government." It's an inanimate government which allows "vertically structured silos." (See June 25 Grand Jury report, p. 26, etc.) It also possesses "legislative fetish," to quote the Civil Grand Jury again. City Hall "places more measures on the ballot" than any other of California's 433 incorporated cities. From 2013 to 2022, "it exceeded its closest peer city by over 100%." The Grand Jury also observed: "The duties of the city administrator (the aforementioned Carmen Chu) are ambiguously defined and need more clarity."

My friend John Horgan in The Daily Journal last month invited voters in 11 San Mateo County school districts from Bayshore Elementary (near the Cow Palace, whose Grand National Rodeo last month was arresting as usual) to Belmont, Burlingame, Cabrillo (on the coast), to Daly City's Jefferson, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Pacifica, Ravenswood, San Bruno and Woodside to consider over $555 million in borrowing, plus parcel taxes of $14 million totaling $569 million on Nov. 5. The bond issues need a 55% "yes" vote and parcel taxes require approval by 66.66%. With our Board of Education election of Ann Hsu, Letteris Eleftheriou and Min Chang can stop pupil exodus from, and closure of, public schools which anticipate a decline of 5,000 students by 2029 and now contains over 14,000 empty seats with plans to close 102 schools while spending $38.2 million to ignore neighborhood schools by busing elementary school pupils from home to school and back by a private company.

Donald Trump will be sentenced Nov. 26 for conviction of violating New York law on business records. He's challenged the New York trial court judge who presided his May 31 conviction. On Dec. 11, each state governor submits certification of that state's electors. Mr. Trump and Ms. Harris have two separate elector lists, two for each U.S. senator and one for each House of Representatives member. California has 54. Wyoming has three. On Jan. 3, 2025, congressional members will be sworn in. The electoral count occurs Jan. 6. If neither Harris nor Trump obtain 270 or more votes, the House of Representatives votes, with each state having one vote and a majority of 26 states decides our next U.S. president.

Let's hope the national election somehow can be salvaged by salubrious Americans. Maybe we were better off when charity was a virtue instead of a tax deduction, but remember George Jean Nathan's wise warning: "Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote."

Happy Thanksgiving. Don't forget to name the turkey and make everyone uncomfortable!

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

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2008 VW Beetle for sale. Like-new. Great body, white interior, good black paint, brand new tires from Costco, doesn't smoke or burn oil, engine runs great, 5,875 miles. Clean title, clean car in SF. 805-455-9520.

CASTING CALL

Calling all young (18 and under) readers of the Richmond Review: We're filming a short (one minute) local ad for the newspaper which will run at the 4 Star and Balboa theaters. SF LOCAL SPOTLIGHT is a new grassroots community program spotlighting small businesses at independent neighborhood cinemas in San Francisco. Interested? Contact Nate Zack: nbzack@gmail.com.

CLEMENT STREET ART WALK

Clement Street Art Walk is a monthly community evening event bringing local art to the small businesses on Clement Street. Listen to live music, mingle with your neighbors and enjoy local artists featured at your favorite small businesses while you shop local. Every third Thursday of the month, 5-8 p.m. on Clement Street from Arguello Boulevard to Park Presidio Boulevard (and beyond)! Learn more at clementstreetsf.com.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stances on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities in the Richmond District. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Drop-in for one-on-one session in English at the Richmond Branch Library (351 Ninth Ave.) on Friday, Nov. 8, 1:30-3 p.m. We are also seeking volunteers who speak English and/or Cantonese. For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org. The Tech Squad is now introducing Basic Tech Classes for older adults and adults with disabilities in Cantonese on Tuesdays 12:30-2 p.m. at the Richmond Senior Center (6221 Geary Blvd., third floor). For more information, call 415- 961-7043 or email sfconnected@felton.org.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Richmond Neighborhood Center is seeking dedicated volunteers to help at our food pantries. Assist us in providing essential support to families in need. Sign up today at richmondsf.org/get-involved/volunteer.

FREE EVENTS AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY, RICHMOND BRANCH 351 NINTH AVE., 415-355-5600

CHILDREN/FAMILY PROGRAMS:

"Storytime: For Babies." Playtime follows directly after the Storytime. Limited to 46 participants, tickets required. Mondays 11-11:30 a.m.

"Storytime: For Toddlers." Playtime follows directly after Storytime. Richmond 10th Avenue Park. Storytime begins on Nov. 6 and will be held inside. Limited to 46 participants, tickets required Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11-11:30 a.m.

"Social: Game Time." Relax and play board games with family or friends: Connect 4, Scrabble, Chutes and Ladders and more. For children and their families. Sunday, Nov. 10, 2-4:30 p.m.

"Activity: Lego Free Play." Build skyscrapers, forts, castles or whatever your imagination desires with LEGO. For ages 5 and older. Nov. 12, 3:30-5 p.m.

"Presentation: Natural Presidio." Meet Ranger Fatima and use your five senses to learn about animals and plants that call the Presidio of San Francisco their home. Since 1998, Fatima Colindres has worked as interpretive park ranger at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area at the Presidio of San Francisco. They are passionate about providing a rich national park experience to people who traditionally have not visited the parks. Fatima uses their natural storytelling abilities to engage Spanish- and English-speaking audiences of all ages in fun and interactive experiences that help them gain a new love and respect for their National Parks. Thursday, Nov. 21, 4-5 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:

"Celebration: Bay Beats 2024 Launch Party." An outdoor concert featuring four Bay Beats bands. Celebrating its second year as SFPL's popular local music platform, Bay Beats presents a four-band concert in Richmond Branch's 10th Avenue mini park, between Geary Boulevard and Clement Street. Coinciding with the 2024 release of albums onto Bay Beats, this showcase is presented in partnership with Amoeba Music and White Crate. The lineup of bands reflects the great depth and variety of the Bay Area music scene:

noon - Howan - Eclectic Mandarin pop

1 p.m. - Kathy Kallick Band - Grammy award-winning Bluegrass

2 p.m. - PEÑA - Latin lo~fi

3 p.m. - Grooblen - Psychedelic cabaret rock

DJ - ronny ronny ronny (White Crate), Emcee, Steve Ward Moore of What's Poppin'! / The ComplexSF. Come for the raffle with great prizes and for the giveaways. Come for the SFPL Tech Mobile and to meet Richmond District music schools, venues, and merchants. But mostly, come to hear and celebrate local music. All ages welcome to this free event. Saturday, Nov. 2, noon-4 p.m.

"Refuse Refuse: Neighborhood cleanup and Storytime." Led by community member Vince Yuen, meet at the 10th Avenue door of the Richmond Library to help with neighborhood cleanup. Every second Tuesday of the month. Nov. 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

"Workshop: Fix-it with Sweaters." Bring your sweater to mend with professional guidance, for the fall season. Space is limited. Reservations required: 415-355-5600 or sign-up at the reference desk. Saturday, Nov. 16, 2-3 p.m.

"Performance: SF Symphony Chamber Concert." A chamber concert featuring San Francisco Symphony musicians performing classical pieces from a range of composers and sharing their experiences as members of the San Francisco Symphony. This event is open to all library patrons and is brought to you by the San Francisco Symphony's Community Chamber Concert program.

Featured musicians: Amos Yang, acting associate principal cello and Charles Chandler, bass. Amos Yang joined the San Francisco Symphony in 2007 as assistant principal cello and was previously a member of the Seattle Symphony and a member of the Maia String Quartet. Born and raised in San Francisco, he was a member of the SF Symphony Youth Orchestra and San Francisco Boys Choir, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the Julliard School. He now serves on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the San Francisco Academy Orchestra. Charles Chandler is the first member of the SFS Youth Orchestra to have become a member of the San Francisco Symphony. He studied with Shinji Eshima of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and with David Walter at Julliard. Prior to joining the SFS in 1992, he performed at the Schleswig-Holstein Festival and served as associate principal bass of the Phoenix Symphony. Connect: San Francisco Symphony – Free Community Performances, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2-3 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

"Breath meditation and Gentle Yoga with Don Narin." Guided meditation for calming and joint stress release with a gentle form of yoga that anyone can do. No movement beyond what is comfortable for you. Very relaxing and calming. Every Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon.

"Tutorial: Tech Savy at 60+." Learn basics of tablets and iPhones. It is a seven-class series. Please bring your own devices: Apple/Android. The class is taught in Cantonese. Space is limited. Reservations: 415-355-5600. This program is in partnership with Self-Help for the Elderly. Wednesdays, Nov. 6 and 20, 1:30-2:15 p.m.

"Tutorial: Drop-In Tech Support for Older Adults with the Felton Institute Tech Squad." Get one-on-one help with your phone or tablet, searching the Internet, setting up an email account and other basic computer tasks. Cantonese-speaking Tech Squad members are available to assist, Friday, Nov. 8, 1:30-3 p.m.

"Read Together, Silent Book Club." Bring any book (fiction or nonfiction) for a period of silent reading followed by a discussion when you share what you are reading with others. The club meets every other Wednesday, Nov. 13 and 27, 3-5 p.m.

"Workshop: CYC Disaster Preparedness Cycle Training." Do not let earthquakes catch you off guard! Come to all three disaster preparedness workshops to learn earthquake preparedness. Attendees who complete all three workshops will receive a free disaster preparedness kit. Register at the Reference Desk or call 415-355-5600 to attend.

- Pre-Disaster: How to prepare an emergency supplies kit.
- During Disaster: How to protect yourself during an earthquake.
- Post Disaster: How to recover from the disaster.

Learn more at cycsf.org/program/csop/. Tuesday, Nov. 12, 6-7 p.m.

"Workshop: Medicare 101." The workshop will cover the following topics: What original Medicare is and how it works; Enrollment periods; How to avoid possible penalties; Understanding Medicare Choices; Medicare Supplement Plans; Medicare Advantage Plans; Prescription Drugs Plans; Changes in Medicare in 2025. The workshop will be presented 5-6 p.m. in English and 6-7 p.m. in Russian. No sign up required. Thursday, Nov. 14, 5-7 p.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy October birthday to Celeste Aquino, David Barker, Zarek Bastani, Lynne Billig, Estella Bond, Diane Callman, Connie Chan, Hannah Chon, Megan Cresci, Carlos Joey Dardon, J9 Downing, Toivo Dresden, MJSD, David Durham, Logan Gardner, David Gillies, Frank Gogol, Vivienne-Rain Hauso, Kathy Hom, Tam Huynh, Laura Johnson-Bickford, Matt Kauffman, Sidney

Continued on page 15

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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

We are in the midst of an unprecedented but also singularly disconcerting electoral season. The wealthy are trying to both buy our elections (including the mayorship) and control even more of our open space. And, as they have in the past, they may well succeed.

During her first four-year term on the Board of Supervisors, Connie Chan has made a strong, if ultimately unsuccessful, attempts to moderate attempts by wealthy, connected interests to control our public space for their benefit. In doing so, she has also stood up to two of our most egregiously highhanded city agencies. Last year in August she implored our "progressive" mayor that Geary Boulevard merchants not "suffer the mismanagement of our transit agency by ideologue bureaucrats." Her plea fell on deaf ears.

Giving that Chan was previously the spokeswoman for Rec. and Park, it was both surprising and delightful to see her take on this neoliberalized department – not just once, but twice! Her attempts at fighting corruption were viewed as such a threat that her portion of the park was removed during the redistricting process and reassigned to Myrna Melgar. Melgar, a legislator who passionately believed that the Ferris wheel needed to be in the Concourse for four more years to assist with San Francisco's economic recovery, is a machine-compliant politician.

When the controversial Skystar "observation wheel" was up for renewal in 2021, Chan's bid to have the already contractually-concluded eyesore remain for just one more year was not supported by the majority of her fellow co-opted supervisors. Chan later took on the scandalous behavior of Parks Alliance – behavior for which this den of elitist vipers remains unrepentant to this day. In response to an audit, Parks Alliance CEO Drew Becher threatened her, mafia-style, with the withdrawal of his support for a Richmond Playground's fundraising!

Last year, when the privatization of the Tea Garden was on the agenda, Chan attempted to push back against the outrageously high weekend entry fees for "nonresidents." I called in a few times to implore Haney and Safai, two gofers for the system, to at least allow us (and the veterans) to bring a guest. My entreaties were ignored. It is unfair that we need to join the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society to bring a guest, just as it is unfair that California residents must pay to walk on roads their bond funds paid for. The three formerly public facilities currently serve as a cash cow and fiefdom for Stephanie Linder's San Francisco Botanical Garden Society.

This year Chan has been boldly speaking out against the gentrifying ballot initiative to close the Upper Great Highway 24/7 and litter it with banners, rental bikes and scooters, kitschy art and food trucks, much as has been done on JFK Drive. This divisive measure is enthusiastically supported by Supervisors Melgar, Preston, Engardio, as well as the Bicycle Coalition, WalkSF and the entire real estate lobby.

Chan should have pushed back harder. Another Planet Entertainment should never have been permitted to pour a humongous, concrete boomerang out at the polo fields, let alone present an additional elitist-geared concert. It is outrageous that we lost public control of the Tea Garden. The diesel-run Skystar should have been sent packing at the end of its one year term. "Nonprofits" should not be able to wreak their will as they may do at present. (The latest obscenity is a planned light show at the privatized Strybing Arboretum). Yet, had either of Chan's two conservative female opponents been in this office, they would not have pushed back at all. The choice is clear!

Our unelected bureaucrats, whose enormous salaries we pay, believe themselves not only to know better than us, but to be right about absolutely everything. They have rendered themselves impervious to any real critique. Publicity for superficial agency meetings is purposefully and perpetually insufficient, while also often misleading. But they always find times to secretly meet with elites behind our back. This needs to change. We need a voice in what happens. We require action, substantive information, equity, and inclusion. Not "joy" and "activation" catering to special interests! Vote to re-elect Connie Chan on Nov. 5.

Harry S. Pariser

Editor:

Long-time reader, first time commenting. But, I cannot hold myself back.

As I type this, my blood boils from Kopp's ridiculous opinion which states both our presidential candidates are subpar. I do not need to expand upon Trump's whole dumpster fire of a first term, absolute disgust of Jan. 6 and now this wretched campaign.

But, as a woman, I am so repulsed by Kopp's digging up a story from 2019 where someone was upset that Ms Harris was demanding or had high expectations of her staff. Really? This is a trope of a strong, assertive woman is so played out. Once again, here is an older, white man disparaging a woman of color.

This is the reason this election is so important – as women, our lives are at stake. LGBTQ citizens, Department of Education, Workers Rights, No Fault Divorce, IVF … the list continues as what will be destroyed. Our democracy is at stake. Maybe for old, wealthy, white guys this won't be so bad, but for the rest of us ….

So, Quentin Kopp, I strongly disagree that we have two poor candidates. And I find your opinion off base and truly out of touch. Just like we joke in our family (based off the original "Father of the Bride"), Welcome to the 2020's, Mr. Kopp.

Gretchen Tallon

Editor:

We are voting "yes" on K to transform an unreliable roadway into an unparalleled park.

Longtime Outer Sunset resident Eddy Rubin writes about Ocean Beach in his soon-to-be-published book:

"Seven million people live in the San Francisco Bay Area, one of North America's most densely populated regions. But Ocean Beach feels apart, always turning away from the metropolis and toward the sea. Above all, OB, as we call it, is wildness."

Ocean Beach is a unique place. That is especially true for westside residents, for whom the place where our City meets the wildness of the Pacific Ocean stirs a sense of neighborhood pride. This November, Proposition K offers us a chance to transform this piece of our coast into a park that will help preserve Ocean Beach and allow more people to enjoy the wildness that is OB.

As drivers, we know that the Great Highway from Lincoln to Sloat is losing most of its utility as a roadway. Coastal erosion is permanently closing the southern end of the road; the law closing that section unanimously passed at the Board of Supervisors in April. This means the Upper Great Highway will no longer be a direct link in and out of the City – a use case that accounts for almost 80% of trips on the road. Further, the section that Prop. K would turn into a park – from Lincoln to Sloat – closes 32-65 weekdays each year due to sand buildup, forcing drivers to take frequent, unexpected inland detours.

However we vote on Prop. K, Mother Nature is bringing big changes to our westside commutes that will require routing inland toward Sunset Boulevard. Prop. K asks us: If we're already turning inland, are we willing to make that turn at Lincoln instead of Sloat in exchange for a new oceanfront park?

The weekend pilot promenade is already the City's third most visited park space according to the Recreation and Park Department, demonstrating a clear desire by people to enjoy the oceanfront without going onto the beach itself. Parents with strollers, people using wheelchairs, kids learning to ride bikes – the pilot has opened the coast for them to enjoy in ways not possible on the beach.

That pilot expires next year, after which the Upper Great Highway will return to full-time use as a roadway. This election is the only chance for voters to have a direct say before that happens. Park opponents worked for years to undo the weekend pilot through multiple legal challenges including an appeal to the Coastal Commission this May, and even sponsored Prop. I in 2022 to require the Great Highway be used 24/7/365. Their persistence highlights a clear need for the voters to settle a simple question: Do San Franciscans want part of our coast to be a park?

The environmental benefits of a park are well documented. According to the SF Estuary Institute, a park promenade offers "the greatest and most immediate ecological benefits" for Ocean Beach because it "would eliminate fast-moving vehicles that restrict the movement of many animals, and reduce car-associated light and noise which can disorient and harm wildlife." The opportunity to restore the coastal dunes and remove pollution from car and tire brakes, which goes directly into the ocean and harms wildlife, has also garnered endorsements of Prop. K from the City's leading environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Golden Gate Bird Alliance, the League of Conservation Voters and others. Proposition K provides a park for San Franciscans today, but more importantly helps preserve Ocean Beach for future generations.

The success of the pilot park shows that people want to recreate by the coast. But the weekend-only pilot does not allow even the most basic

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park features like seating and art, because they get in the way of cars on weekdays. Prop. K would fix that, allowing the Recreation and Park Department to manage the space as a full-time park with full-time park amenities.

JFK Promenade in Golden Gate Park shows us what that can look like, and how successful it can be. Without any additional park funding, converting JFK Drive into a promenade increased visitation to Golden Gate Park by 36%. Simple, low-cost improvements like seating and art improve the park experience for all visitors, but especially seniors and people with limited mobility. The same is possible on our coast. If Prop. K passes, the Recreation and Park Department will finally be able to make similar improvements to transform the Upper Great Highway into an oceanfront park promenade. Prop. K is also the necessary first step to begin conversations about what larger improvements the community would like to see, like adding bathrooms or other park amenities. Those conversations can't start until we first know whether the space will be a park in the first place.

In a challenging time for our City, Proposition K is a bright spot of opportunity. We can continue to fight Mother Nature to keep an unreliable roadway, or we can seize the opportunity to transform our coast into an unparalleled park space that will help us preserve Ocean Beach for the next generation. Will you join us in voting "yes" on K?

Lucas Lux and Jane Lew, residents of the Outer Sunset and Outer Richmond districts respectively and volunteer directors for the Friends of Great Highway Park

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Line by line, here are the facts when they're not twisted:

Voting Yes on Prop K will NOT create a park on the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat. It will not be good for the environment, give people of all ages better access to the coast or bring new customers to our small businesses. The weekday closure of the highway will harm our families, our kids and grandkids who will suffer the effects of close to 100,000 vehicles per week being diverted from the safe highway onto local residential streets with dangerous intersections at every block.

Prop. K closes a very heavily driven section of the Great Highway.

Prop. K will force drivers onto Chain of Lakes and 19th Avenue. The Vision Zero District 4 Report Card published by WalkSF lists as two of the 10 most dangerous intersections: 41st Ave at Chain of Lakes; and Sunset Boulevard at Wawona Street. Several schools are in front of Sunset Blvd with its 3 lanes of heavy traffic in both directions. Imagine adding thousands more vehicles to it.

One has to question the supervisor's statement that the southern section of the Great Highway is necessarily closing after Election Day whether Prop. K wins or loses, because if that were true, why is it included as something voters will be voting on when they vote on Prop K? See, Sec. 6.15 of Prop K. Restricting Vehicles on the Great Highway Extension. "… because that portion of the street is no longer needed for vehicular traffic."

The section south of Sloat Boulevard has nothing to do with the utility of the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat. If cars are forced to turn left at Sloat as they exit the southern end of the highway after entering from Lincoln, they drive a very short distance on Sloat before connecting with Skyline Blvd and continue on south down the coastal highway. This will directly connect them to Daly City and other southern destinations. Prop. K asks us to unnecessarily congest our roads, drive longer distances and travel through as many dangerous intersections as possible.

The utility, beauty and safety of the Great Highway is attributed to the fact that there are no on/off ramps for cars. Cars drive nonstop for two miles at 30 mph with no dangerous intersections or cross traffic via timed traffic lights. Prop. K bans vehicles from ever using the highway again, whether for twice daily commutes or the occasional scenic coastal ride.

Although this section of the Great Highway bypasses all the businesses and schools in the Sunset, that's a good thing, a safe thing, and closing it will divert all the cars, trucks, delivery vans, construction vehicles, big rigs, and motorcycles (some in groups of 100+) onto the streets where they will drive right in front of several schools creating a dangerous situation.

Lincoln Way, Sunset Boulevard and 19th Avenue are all known for the injuries and crashes that regularly occur on them, but the opposite is true for this 2-mile section of the Great Highway. If the City could make these roads as safe as the highway, they would have done it by now, but all efforts have been costly failures. Nothing done so far has resulted in making these alternatives the preferred routes that have kept drivers from cutting through neighborhood streets.

Nowhere in Prop. K are voters asked: Do people want this road to become a park? Prop. K does not mention the word park or provide any funding for a park to replace the closed highway. It does not estimate the cost of a park. It does not ask for environmental studies before changing its use. It eliminates any possibility of community engagement about the data that was collected so far and stops all future data gathering. It does not provide any protection for the fragile eroding sand dunes. It ignores the ongoing destruction of the habitat of the endangered Snowy Plovers from the massive increase in foot traffic over the National Wildlife Sanctuary located between the west side of the highway and the beach. Oddly, Friends of Great Highway Park have a Snowy Plover mascot that entertains children as their spokesperson hands out propaganda and falsely claims passing Prop K will protect the endangered shorebirds by closing the Great Highway because "if there weren't cars on the highway they wouldn't be getting killed by cars running them over." Wouldn't it be great to see those statistics? Who has ever witnessed or even heard of one Snowy Plover being run over by moving traffic on the Great Highway?

The question is, despite the fact that this section of highway is designed as a multi-use space for all to share whether walking, biking or driving, and is currently being used that way from 6 AM Monday through noon Fridays, why is it not enough to have it car free from noon every Friday, all day and night every Saturday, all day and night every Sunday and all day and night every holiday?

This is on the ballot because the Supervisor of District 4 put it there in the least open, transparent, and democratic way, blindsiding the majority of his constituents by secretly working on it for months to obtain input from the City Attorney and convincing 4 other supervisors to sign on, as he hid it from merchants and other directly impacted residents, and then strategically filed it on the last day to file a ballot measure so no opposition to it could be filed in time for this election. "The coast belongs to all San Franciscans and everyone should have a say," is his justification for making sure 8 out of 11 San Francisco districts that do not and will not experience the daily impacts of a closed Great Highway (other than the precedent it will set for road closures throughout the City in their districts) will be voting on the fate of it, influenced by heavily financed propaganda being spread citywide by those whose favor he seeks.

To keep sharing the very safe Great Highway with the thousands of vehicles driving on it Monday through Friday, vote No on Prop K. A no vote will still keep it car free every weekend and holiday and for special events. NO on Prop K.

Judi Gorski

Editor:

As two generations of an Outer Sunset family – one in college, one having been retired for more than 20 years – we love our neighborhood. We love going on walks, enjoying ocean views and seeing children have space to play.

In the past, we mostly walked along the streets of the Avenues, but it was a whole new experience when the City closed part of the Upper Great Highway for the community to have the outdoor recreation space. Suddenly, we had this wide open space right next to the ocean, and it became a place where we could walk and enjoy nature in a new way.

When the Upper Great Highway is a park, we can immerse ourselves in the tranquility of the ocean and the beach without the distractions of car traffic.

We believe our community deserves this open space. As hard as we work to provide for our families and pay our bills, we need a place to take a break, so we can clear our minds, breathe fresh air, relax and unwind. A park serves this purpose for our community.

When we go to the Upper Great Highway when it is a park, we see communities connecting and being active together. We love spending time with family at free activities for the public, like live music, tai chi and yoga. The Upper Great Highway is also a space for us to have big celebrations with families and friends, like we've already seen during the Autumn Moon Festival and Halloween.

The Upper Great Highway as a park provides plenty of room for kids to play and for people of all ages to walk or bike by the ocean. We hope that Prop. K will encourage the City to add more benches to the space for seniors like us to sit down when we get tired of walking. We would also love to see more nature on our walks and know the Upper Great Highway Park would benefit from more flowers and plants. After all, it's a great place for us to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Voting yes on Proposition K could bring these changes, creating a beautiful park for all of us. Especially after considering the southern end of the Great Highway will already permanently close due to erosion into the ocean, supporting this proposition is even more sensible.

The opportunity to have a park right next to a beach is rare and special. We want to keep our peaceful oceanside strolls, make room for everyone to take a break from their stressful lives, and have space for children to run and bike around without worrying about

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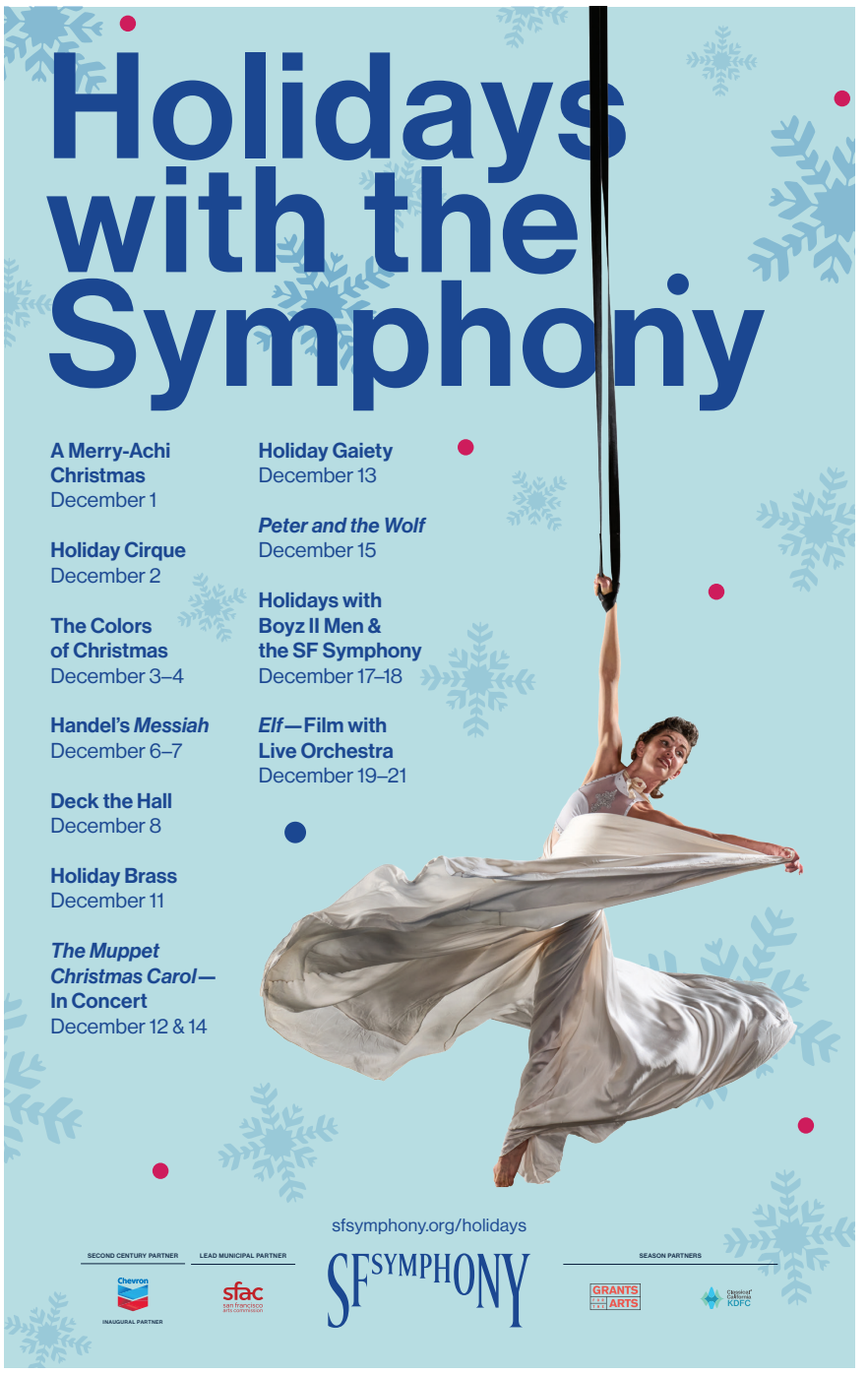

Protect Kids. Not Cars.

An Open Letter to the City.

To the City of San Francisco and its Elected Officials,

As concerned members of this community—parents, neighbors, and residents—we are heartbroken by the recent car crash that left a young child hospitalized. This tragedy, while deeply painful, is neither surprising nor unexpected. It is the direct result of years of neglect and the City's failure to address a recurring and well-identified threat to safety.

The inadequate infrastructure in our city is our primary issue. In one of the most densely populated cities in the country, the absence of basic safety measures for those walking and biking is inexcusable. Streets and intersections are designed with driver convenience in mind, while the safety of our community is an afterthought. The lack of protected bike lanes, raised crosswalks, and effective traffic-calming measures has left residents exposed and vulnerable. The intersection where the child was injured has been recognized by neighbors as a danger for years, yet the city has taken little to no action.

Reckless driving behavior is rampant—speeding, rolling through stop signs, and aggressive driving are daily occurrences. The City's delayed response to this crisis is unacceptable. While enforcement may have increased recently, it is too little, too late. Prevention through infrastructure and policy must be the first line of defense, as these proven strategies are essential in reducing dangerous behavior before it happens. Enforcement, particularly through the use of speed cameras, can play a critical role in supporting these measures by holding drivers accountable and deterring reckless behavior. However, years of neglect have allowed drivers to assume there are no consequences, leading to a culture where traffic laws are openly disregarded. The City's failure to act has put lives at risk, and these preventable tragedies will continue until fundamental changes are made.

Crash data for District 1 reveals the scale of the problem: According to the San Francisco Department of Public Health, 204 vehicle crashes have injured people between April 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024 which is a crash approximately every 2.3 days. In just the last six months, there have been multiple serious incidents within a concentrated six-block by two-block area, including Park Presidio and Fulton, 8th and Cabrillo, and most recently, 7th and Balboa where a child was critically injured, which led to the writing of this letter. This pattern of preventable tragedies underscores the urgent need for comprehensive safety measures and a reimagining of our neighborhood streets to prevent further harm.

The City's inaction is more than a failure of governance; it is an abandonment of its duty to protect residents, especially the most vulnerable. This was not an accident; it was the inevitable result of prioritizing cars over community safety.

We cannot wait any longer for action. The City must take responsibility for its role in creating a safer, more sustainable environment for all residents, starting with decisive changes to street design and policy with safety as the top priority. Parents and community members are mobilizing for change, and we urge policymakers to see this as a clear signal: the call for street safety is growing, and the time to act is now.

Sincerely,

We, the Undersigned Concerned Members of the Community

Including parents and caregivers, educators, medical professionals and first responders, business owners, community members, safe street advocates, former elected officials, and more. Full list of signees on the following page.

SIGNED BY

ORGANIZERS

Jen Nossokoff
Parent, Community Member, Advocate

Danielle and Nick Jezienicki
Parents of Bowie, age 6, hospitalized by crash

ORGANIZATIONS

Richmond Family SF
Outer Sunset Neighbors
Friends of Great Highway Park
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Statement from Danielle and Nick
One of the reasons we love living in the city is how much of a community the Inner Richmond is. From school to home to Clement Street- our neighborhood is so convenient and close knit- especially by bike. Our sense of safety and normalcy was shattered on that Monday as our entire lives stopped when, just days after his sixth birthday party, our precious Bowie was impacted in a traffic and bike crash as he was leaving school.

We are so grateful that he is expected to make a full recovery, but it will be a long road. To see your kid on a hospital bed when hours before they were on the soccer field is something I hope no parent ever has to experience. Certainly not as a result of a car crashing into their bike, half a block from their school.

Better bike safety is such a benefit for the community - not only keeping kids and pedestrians safe, but it makes the Richmond a wonderful place to live. Biking is such an eco friendly and sustainable mode of getting around our beautiful city, and should be a priority at minimum for safety, if not as a cornerstone of San Francisco life and community. No community was ever improved by more cars!

Thank you all SO much for your incredible support and efforts. The love we've felt during Bowie's recovery has been absolutely overwhelming and another testament to our incredible community and school. We truly don't have the words to express how much it has meant to us.

INDIVIDUALS

Adrianna Moreno
Parent
Aimee Rozen
Parent, Community Member
Alex Darr
Parent, Community Member
Alex Wong
Parent, Community Member
Allison Firestone
Parent, Community Member, Educator
Alondra Esquivel Garcia
Community Member
Alyssa Cheung
Parent, Community Member
Alyssa Harvey
Community Member
Amanda Gamble
Parent, Community Member, Educator
Amber Lennon
Parent, Community Member
Amy Diallo
PhD, Scientist
Andrew Hines
Parent, Community Member
Angela Alaniz
Parent, Community Member
Anna Hines
Parent, Community Member
Ashley Crawford
Parent, Community Member
Ashlyn Glancy
University of San Francisco, Student
Aubrey Carstenson
Parent, Community Member
Barnett Trzcinski
Community Member
Blair Kelly
Parent, Community Member
Brent Couchman
Parent, Community Member
Brian Reyes
Parent, Community Member
Byron A Hawley
Parent, Community Member
Cal Law
Community Member
Carol Brownson
Community Member
Carrie Brown
Parent, Community Member
Cathy Targett
Community Member
Celeste Perron
Parent, Advocate
Cesar Alaniz
Parent, Community Member
Charlotte Mooney
Parent, Community Member, Educator
Chris Bergeron
Community Member
Chris Bourne
Community Member
Christopher Plaskett
Parent, Community Member
Claudia Garibay
Parent, Community Member
Corbin Muraro
Community Member
Courtney Tawadrous
Parent, Community Member
Cyrus Hall
Community Member, Advocate
Darrell Bailey
Parent, Community Member, Medical Professional
David Alexander
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
David Friedlander-Holm
Parent, Community Member, Educator
Denise Winkler
Parent
Dennis Lynch
Community Member
Eliza Panike
Community Member, SFMTA CAC Member
Elizabeth Corbett
Parent, Community Member
Elizabeth Harrison
Parent, Community Member
Elliot Schwartz
Community Member
Eric Mar
Parent, Community Member, Educator, Former Richmond District Supervisor and Board of Education President
Erin Gilmore
Parent, Community Member
Eva Holman
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
Grant Goldman
Community Member
Hayley McKane
Parent, Community Member
Heida Biddle
Parent, Community Member
Heidi Moseson
Parent, Community Member, Medical Professional
Jacqueline Mauro
Parent
James Le
Parent
Jason Karsh
Parent, Community Member
Jay Bain
Parent, Community Member
Jay Dillon
Parent, Community Member
Jenifer Navarro
Parent, Community Member
Jennifer Elmore
Community Member
Jennifer Longley
Senior Advisor, San Francisco Women's Political Committee
Jenny Koland
Parent, Community Member
Jessica Sit
Parent, Community Member
Jim Aldrich
Community Member, Board Member at Golden Gate Senior Services
Joannah Bell
Parent, Community Member
Jodi Dove
Parent, Community Member
John Elliott
Community Member
Judith Way
Public High School Student
Julie Pesano
Educator
Julien Gaillard
Parent, Community Member
Justin Martinkovic
Parent, Community Member
Karen Chan
Parent, Community Member
Katrina Steffek
Parent, Community Member
Kenneth Russell
Community Member
Kristin Tièche
Community Member, Educator, Vice Chair at the San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee, representing District 1
Lian Chang
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
Lindsay Facchini
Parent, Community Member
Lindsey Couchman
Parent, Community Member
Liz O'Donoghue
Parent, Community Member
Lucia Pacca
Parent
Lucas Lux
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
Luke Bornheimer
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
Madhavi Maheshwari
Parent, Community Member
Madison Avery
Student
Mark Plenke
Community Member
Marta Linsday
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
Maxwell Gerber
Community Member
Megan Miller
Parent, Community Member
Megan Yuen
Parent, Community Member
Melanie Girod
Community Member
Mia Morrill
Community Member
Michael Patrick Crehan
Parent, Community Member, Firefighter/First Responder
Michael Wakshlag
Parent, Community Member
Michelle Devaux
Parent, Medical Professional
Michelle Conklin
Community Member, Educator
Monica Hannon
Parent, Medical Professional
Monica Strauch
Community Member
Nadia Rahman
Community Member
Naheed Deboo
Parent, Community Member
Nandini Novarr
Parent, Community Member
Nicholas Navarro
Parent, Community Member
Paul Enns Wiebe
Educator
Paul Rivera
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
Paul Wermer
Community Member, Advocate
Pauline Basso
PhD, UCSF
Pearl Monaghan
Community Member, Educator
Peter Belden
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
Phoebe Ford
Parent, Community Member
Quentin Riffard
PhD, Community Member
Rachel Clyde
Community Member
Raymond Rodriguez
Parent, Community Member
Rebecca Karsh
Parent, Community Member
Regan Mahoney
Parent, Community Member
Rich Menendez
Parent, Community Member
Rishi Misra
Community Member, Advocate
Rita Way
Parent, Community Member
Rosabel Chang
Parent, Community Member
Sarah Boudreau
Community Member
Shyla Batliwalla
Parent, Community Member
Sobia Itwaru
Parent, Community Member
Stacy, Eric & Paige Boise
Parents, Community Family
Stephanie Lane
Parent, Community Member, Educator
Stephen Braitsch
Community Member, Advocate
Susan Friedlander-Holm
Parent, Community Member, Educator, Regular Biker
Susan Zhang
Parent, Community Member
Susanna Burgess
Parent, Community Member
Terry Burgess
Parent, Community Member
Tim Marcus
Parent, Community Member, Business Owner
Trevor Burke
Community Member
Trish Gump
Parent, Community Member, Advocate
Veronica Cortez
Community Member
Victoria Thomas
Parent, Community Member
Wendy Aragón
Community Member
Will Holleran
Entrepreneur
Zac Cicala
Parent, Community Member
Zachary Granados
Parent, Community Member

The letter was organized independently by concerned community members and advocates for safer streets. However, this publication has been made possible using campaign funds.

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Signed list as of Oct 22nd, 2024. To view the most recent list and to add your name or organization, visit **kidsnotcars.com**

E-Hoops at USF

Continued from page 1

ponential growth from 30 athletes back in 2014 to more than 90 athletes today with about 40 volunteers per session.

The E-Hoops program has also caught the attention of the Golden State Warriors which invited the SF participants for the last six years to attend a Warriors game and then participate in a scrimmage.

Half of the athletes are neuro-diverse or have some type of learning challenges. Some families join with one child being neuro-diverse and one neuro-typical child. Having this inclusive space is very meaningful for families when their children can be included in the same space.

Amanda Ajisebutu is the mother of one boy and one girl. Her six-year-old daughter, Kherington, is neurotypical and her 7-year-old son, Kingston, has an unofficial autism diagnosis.

She called Kherington fearless as she easily joined her younger group upstairs, while Kingston exhibited anxiety until set up with a 1:1 which allowed for him to participate better.

"Kingston is building skills because he likes the sport," Ajisebutu said. "He likes to dribble a lot and shoot some hoops and get outside leadership from the coaches. It just helps."

The E-Hoops SF program was started by directors Ray and Amy Kim. The program is under the umbrella of the larger non-profit organization E-Sports. With the need for inclusive sports growing, the Kims decided to partner with E-Sports and expand it into an E-Hoops program at USF in 2014.

"The USF men's and women's basketball teams and Athletic Department staff volunteer their time and allocated resources for the gym to E-Hoops to make it a special place and opportunity for all the kids and families to have a welcoming and professional space that is safe and equipped to help their kids," Ray Kim said.

Carlton Linguard Jr. is a graduate student who is attending USF School of Management. He is playing USF basketball for one year as he receives his Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MSEI) degree. Linguard, who is seven feet tall, heard other basketball players were volunteering and he asked if he could join. Linguard has a good friend whose niece is blind, and he always worked well with her.

"I had so much fun," Linguard expressed after the session ended.

"They want to do good in the community while being able to use their talents and basketball skills to inspire youth and this is what the USF players have loved about E-Hoops," Kim said.

Athletes and coaches shared a closing chant in the USF War Memorial Gym after E-Hoops's San Francisco Inclusion Basketball Fall Clinic finished on Oct. 6. *Photo by Ray Kim.*

Alongside the USF basketball players there are volunteers from Bay Area Christian Church, Academy of Art University, Pacific Dental School, University High School, and other local high schools and middle schools in San Francisco.

Bay Area Christian Church members and families have been instrumental in bringing E-Hoops and E-Soccer to San Francisco. Many have been volunteering since its inception and are passionate to see that these inclusive spaces exist. Johnathan Smaw has been one of those volunteers.

"I just like working with kids in general," Smaw said. "I've been volunteering almost my whole life. I'm trying to go to school right now to be a teacher."

When Smaw works at schools, he sees special needs children often by themselves and he would like to make sure that all kids feel included.

"I see an opportunity for that gap to be mended, when possible," Smaw said.

Kim said E-Hoops is well organized and there is a huge amount of coordination around planning happening during the week. They set up plans on how to develop motor skills and how to work on social skills. They go over drills for each station and which coaches would be best suited to teach each age group.

According to Kim, the drills practiced at each station are basic fundamental skills that are building blocks for playing basketball, which include dribbling, passing, shooting, defensive stances and moving without the ball to work on coordination.

"We look for volunteers who have passion to personally learn, have empathy and compassion for individuals, especially those who are neurodiverse," Kim said.

According to Kim, 80% of the volunteers and coaches currently live in the Richmond and Sunset districts. Two longtime volunteers, Morgan Lee and Anais Zepeda, welcome the participants at the sign-in desk with huge smiles and often greet the players by name.

Lee has been a longtime supporter of inclusion. Lee sees so much joy that occurs during E-Hoops and enjoys watching the athletes grow.

Growing up, Zepeda was lucky enough to play all sports and it was such an important part of her childhood. Before Zepeda volunteered, she had no idea about the disparity that can occur within sports.

"I like getting to see them make friends, feel included, and just be excited to enjoy sports. I think it's rewarding to see them just have fun," Zepeda said.

Once the gym doors open the athletes are directed to their age appropriate group. Players that require a 1:1 coach are matched at this time.

Parents go upstairs to the bleachers where they're able to observe their athlete or build community and catch up with other parents. Parents talk about school, outside programs or progress their child is making. The smallest bit of progress is a win for a family with a disability.

The players are constantly supported with high fives and cheering from the coaches and other players. This strong support motivates the athletes to believe they truly belong in this space and helps them grow.

Kathleen Siu is a volunteer and student at USF. She's getting a dual degree – a bachelor's degree in history and master's in teaching. Siu is a very big advocate for inclusivity and grew up going to an inclusive school in Palo Alto called Hope Technology School.

"Giving kids the chance to shine when they may not normally get the chance to," Siu said. "Seeing kids flourish and thrive in spaces that may not typically include them. Being able to cultivate that inclusive environment ourselves to meet the needs of kids, it's something that's super fulfilling."

Many parents feel that the socialization they get from coming to E-Hoops is just as important as playing basketball.

Jayce Marapao is 14 years old and his father, Jimmy, sees that the E-Hoops clinic has benefited his son.

"Jayce really likes basketball, and he looks forward to the event," Jimmy Marapao said. "It's a nice social activity and it's good for my son to do things with other athletes. He's communicating a lot better, and he holds himself to high standards. Getting to basketball on time is very important."

Michele De Jesus is the mom of Ian Bohlander. Ian is home schooled and DeJesus feels it is great for his socialization being around other kids.

After the one-hour program, Ian wants to shoot and never wants to leave.

"I just wish it was longer, to have free time after," DeJesus said. "It's good for him to have the structure though. Structure is not the same as free."

Roberto Guerrero is the father of Mateo. Guerrero is happy that Mateo is receiving discipline.

Mateo has a friend who likes to only shoot baskets.

"Basketball is about shooting and who wants to play defense," Guerrero said. "He's learning to engage, he's learning to respect, you have to wait for your turn. Mateo is very impulsive."

E-Hoops allows the athletes, volunteers, coaches and family members to take something special and meaningful away from this very unique experience. One can see the best of humanity in these basketball clinics. An eclectic group of volunteers and coaches come together selflessly for a common purpose.

"Amy and I love how this program builds hope for families, parents and individuals and that with friends we can exceed limits and expectations together," Kim said.

Learn more about E-Hoops at e-sports.org.

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Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

AAPI Mental Health Resources

It has been a trying few years for our Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) neighbors. The pandemic not only escalated a rise in Asian hate, but it also exacerbated mental health struggles. Leaders like myself became painfully aware of the lack of resources available to AAPI communities – from keeping our seniors safe to providing emotional support that could help people in crisis.

I'm happy to report that $6.5 million I championed from the 2022-23 California budget is a step closer to enhancing culturally competent mental health services available on the west side. I thank San Francisco Supervisor Connie Chan for bringing this need to my attention. With this state investment, Richmond Area Multi-Services Inc. (RAMS) was able to purchase the building at 601 Clement St. We appropriately broke ground on the property on Oct. 10, which is World Mental Health Day, an opportunity to raise awareness about mental health issues and what more can be done to increase access to care.

While the project's groundbreaking enables the renovations to proceed, it symbolizes much more. When the renovations are finished, the nonprofit's new hub will raise the bar on mental health care for our area. A centralized location mean RAMS can offer outpatient counseling services, a wellness center and training for psychology professionals in one spot.

For 50 years, they have been a valuable partner in offering mental health care that focused on clients, community and culture. Their expertise is in AAPI clients, who often have unique needs and face barriers to getting emotional support. Last year, RAMS helped 12,500 clients and reached more than 20,000 with prevention and education services in more than 30 languages. It's time this successful provider had a place they can call their own, so they can serve our residents for generations to come.

Since state investment in AAPI communities has been lacking for several years, one of my priorities during my years as Assembly budget chair was to increase state funding for services and programs that are geared toward Asians, especially when it came to counseling. This is important to me because AAPI individuals have the lowest rate of seeking mental health care of any racial or ethnic group. In fact, it's less than 50%, according to a study by UCLA last year. A separate examination of 2022 statistics by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health found suicide to be the leading cause of death among Asians, ages 15 to 24. This is heartbreaking.

Researchers primarily cite the stigma associated with needing mental health care and how it's wrongly construed as a weakness. Secondly, they found that talking openly about sadness, disappointment or depression is rarely encouraged in Asian families. That's why we need local organizations, like RAMS. Their efforts are helping to change these concepts and opening doors for AAPIs to get the support they need. In addition, having workers who understand cultures, speak the same language as their clients, and experience similar struggles are essential to improving health outcomes.

I expect demand for mental health services and programs for AAPI communities will grow, as seeking help becomes more acceptable. RAMS will be ready to meet the moment. The Clement Street location is expected to open next spring. In the meantime, its other offices are open, ready to provide help. Just take the first step and ask. Visit its website, RamsInc.org, to find a location or phone number for the support you need.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from page 9

Keith, Dylan King, Maya Klein, Sue Kozakiewicz, Becky Lee, Brittney Lee, Matthew Leigh, Helen Liu, Kris Lue, Lynda Nguyen, Michelle Nicoletti, Kyle O'Rourke, Karl Paulin, Melissa Judith Poon, Anthony William Rowland, Macy Saiz, Charlotte Schmidlapp, Michelle Schulz, Andy Sponring, Lucia Maria Sullivan, John James Tracy, Peter Tracy, Sr., Jeffrey Trotter, Chelsea Tsang, Kari Vides, Gale Ward, Athena Weber, Sophia West, Maxwell Zachary White, Madison Wong, Ruby Yep, Simone Yuen and Barbara Zartun. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Join us for a Holiday Bazaar on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 1750 29th Ave. Needlework, jewelry, baked goods, collectibles, hand-made items and silent auction. Hearty lunch available for $17, served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

INTRODUCING "PET PIX"

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REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Friday, Nov. 1, 8-9 a.m., Morning Coffee Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/513212/.
Friday, Nov. 1, 3:30-5 p.m., Clement Street Happy Hour Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/437706/.
Saturday, Nov. 2, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Thursday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Thursday, Nov. 7, 3:30-4:30 p.m., One Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/528372/.
Saturday, Nov. 9, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Richmond Library Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/553131/.
Thursday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Saturday, Nov. 16, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Sunday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-noon, Outer Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/450069/.
Thursday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Thursday, Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Rise & Grind Cleanup mobilize.us/togethersf/event/413075/.
Saturday, Nov. 23, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Saturday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Central Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/613409/.
Saturday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-noon, Richmond District Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/441884/.
Saturday, Nov. 30, 10-11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.

SALVATION ARMY PINEHURST HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Silent Auction, Gifts, Jewelry, Bakery, Homemade piroshkis, holiday decorations, pictures with Santa and Mrs Claus and more. Saturday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m-3 p.m., free. Pinehurst Lodge, 2685 30th Ave. at Wawona Street. For more information, email nevadasissy@yahoo.com.

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Announcements run in the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers (36,200 copies) and on RichmondSunsetNews.com (average of 20,000 views per month). Ads must be pre-paid. Deadline: 22nd of the month. Mail check to: P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116 or use PayPal to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Call 415-706-6428 or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com for more details.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or a community event announcements. Free.

It was a warm sunny day on Saturday, Oct. 19, when old car enthusiasts from around the Bay Area gathered in Golden Gate Park for the 36th annual San Francisco Old Car Picnic. The event was founded by retired Golden Gate Park gardener Jimmy O'Keeffe and raises money for charities supporting developmentally disabled people. The event is free for the public but old-car owners (before 1999) pay $40 each to park on the grass at Speedway Meadow and Hellman Hollow for the day. *Photo by Paul Kozakiewicz.*

‘Then and Now’: Euclid Avenue and Arguello Boulevard

Left: View east on Euclid Avenue from Arguello Boulevard shows the westbound Market Street Railway 2-line streetcar #229 turning onto Arguello in 1949. *Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.* Right: It is fun to imagine what San Franciscans from 75 years ago might have thought if they saw a Tesla instead of a streetcar in the Inner Richmond neighborhood. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Family Meal

James Wong in front of Breadbelly on Clement Street in the Richmond District. *Photo by Sean Rinn.*

Sean Rinn

Breadbelly

In vibrant teal walls just west of Park Presidio Boulevard on Clement Street lies a cafe creating a unique blend of flavors derived from the Asian heritage and Northern California upbringing of the chefs involved. Those familiar with the Richmond District know those teal walls are home to Breadbelly.

Breadbelly seamlessly blends different cultural flavors. The cafe’s overall foundation is a team effort among three chefs: James Wong, Clement Hsu and Katherine Campecino-Wong, who were all nominated for James Beard’s Outstanding Baker award in 2022.

The three chefs met in the early stages of their careers working in fine-dining restaurants in San Francisco. All three were dedicated to their craft and kept in touch with each other before reconnecting, believing that they should pool their talents.

“I think a bakery cafe was something that sounded a little different than the fine dining world for us to apply things that we’ve learned.” Wong said. “They have been trained to do a more casual, approachable setting. We knew we didn’t want to do something high end. We wanted something more neighborhood based and approachable.”

Breadbelly’s signature Kaya Toast – which Wong credits his wife Campecino-Wong with inventing – inspires many customer visits. It is a blend of cultures working together to form a symphony of flavors.

“It kind of just melded together, where it’s like this Singaporean jam on this Japanese milk bread, but it’s griddled with condensed milk and lots of butter, kind of French American, and finished with French salt,” Wong said.

Originally, Wong and the Breadbelly team considered their theme as Bay Area Asian American cuisine but have now evolved what their flavor identity is into what Wong terms “New American.”

New American cuisine is considered to be a fusion of American cooking techniques with foreign ingredients that are fresh, local and seasonal. It is part of the farm-to-table movement, under which Breadbelly’s ethos was born.

Part of the identity Breadbelly wanted to create with the name “Breadbelly” was to put a smile on the face of anyone who heard it. It is a name with a warm connotation that feels like they are taking care of the customer, aligning perfectly with their farm-to-table ethos.

The story of the farm-to-table movement began in the 1940s, when more Americans were moving from rural farmlands into urban areas. As a result, processed and packaged food exploded in popularity, dominating the food scene through the 1960s and ’70s. The hippie culture’s yearning for more natural and organic options caught on, and in 1971, Chef Alice Waters opened legendary restaurant Chez Panisse in Berkeley which was one of California’s first farm-to-table restaurants. Fast forward through the 1990s and 2000s, the movement has become a permanent part of American cuisine today.

“I think the ’90s was a really predominant time in San Francisco as far as the farm-to-table movement, and all of the New American cooking that was happening then,” Wong said. “That was a very inspiring time to be a chef in San Francisco.”

The farm-to-table movement was built on the idea that locally grown food tastes better and is fresher for the consumer. The fresher the meal, the better the meal.

“I think we keep that spirit alive at Breadbelly right now, as far as being inspired by the seasons and the Bay Area and all the diversity that’s within the region here,” Wong said.

San Francisco’s rich history of diversity and experimental attitudes are perfect for a place like Breadbelly to thrive. The City’s appreciation for creativity in general, not just within the culinary scene, has allowed Breadbelly to find fulfillment in the process of creation.

Creatively, Breadbelly works great in San Francisco, Wong said. “I’m sure Breadbelly will evolve, and I always think it will be creative. But the creative part for us now is: ‘How do we continue to be interesting but approachable at the same time?’ We have to be creative in figuring out what’s best for business and what’s most fulfilling to us, too.”

After years of popularity in the Richmond District, Breadbelly is set to expand. Brookfield Properties, which has purchased space at Pier 70 in the Dogpatch area, has signed a new Breadbelly location. Wong hopes that the Pier 70 location will be open early next year.

“The potential of the Dogpatch area, and the growth and the neighborhood – we really love to be a part of that pivotal point of San Francisco development in that area,” Wong said. “Things are starting to move quickly in the construction world. It’s getting there. We’re getting there.”

On expansion for the future, Wong said that he and the team “always dream big but are focusing on what’s in front of us right now and the opportunities that present themselves.”

Wong also noted that if all went well with Pier 70, the next steps would be “finding little Breadbelly’s around the Bay Area.” All of Breadbelly’s energy is on maintaining the excellence of the Richmond location and opening in Pier 70.

While many have gone to Breadbelly to try the Kaya Toast among many other delicious and creative menu items diners would be hard pressed to find elsewhere, Wong and the Breadbelly crew are especially proud of their croissant program because it took them a couple years of testing and tasting to master viennoiserie.

Breadbelly offers an array of unique pastries, savory and sweet, along with sandwiches and croissants.

Breadbelly is located at 1408 Clement St. Learn more at breadbellysf.com.

Sean Rinn writes a monthly column about local restaurants for RichmondSunsetNews.com. To read more, search for “Family Meal.”

Send letters, comments and suggestions to: Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com

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Where Two Leading D-1 Supervisorial Candidates Get Their Small Donations

By Thomas K. Pendergast

Although most media coverage of San Francisco's upcoming elections has focused on big money donors like Ron Conway and others, a sampling of who is giving smaller donations of less than $500 each also tells a story.

In the Richmond District, the two leading candidates for supervisor, incumbent Connie Chan and third-time challenger Marjan Philhour, have been raising money from very different sources to fund their respective campaigns.

Of the two, Philhour appears to be raising more money from the smaller donors than Chan, although the district supervisor has been pulling in large-sums as well.

Between January of 2023 and June of 2024, Philhour raised $200,309 in individual donations of $500 or less, while Chan raised $132,468 in that time.

These donations are separate from the money they both raised when running for the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee.

Most telling is what industries and types of businesses were giving to each of the respective candidates.

Chan appears to be raising most of her money from worker's unions, government workers, educators and retired people.

Philhour is receiving a lot of web and computer company money, as well as real estate interests, venture capital and law firms associated with those interests, and other financial companies.

A four-month sampling of SF Department of Elections records focusing between the beginning of November 2023 and the end of February 2024 shows Philhour receiving $8,650 from employees or owners of tech companies and another $8,300 from venture capital firms.

Legal firms contributed $5,900 in that time; finance related companies contributed $18,880.

Philhour received $7,450 from sources aligned with education and $3,350 came from people who describe themselves as "self-employed."

Meanwhile, in that same four-month period Chan raised $4,300 from unions, $1,940 from education sources, $3,925 from people who work in government, and about $1,100 from nonprofits.

Perhaps unexpected were donations to the candidates from retired peopleand people who described themselves as "unemployed."

Philhour garnered $15,950 from people who described themselves as "retired" and another $19,050 who described themselves as "unemployed" for a total of $35,000.

Chan also received money from people describing themselves as "retired," at about $6,240 but only received $433 from people describing themselves as "unemployed."

Kilduff's Korner

By Paul Kilduff

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Photographers are invited to submit three of their best photos for consideration to be published in the "Photos of the Month" gallery on RichmondSunsetNews.com. The website averages 20,000 views per month. Please submit photos as jpegs on or near the 15th of each month. For more information, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or call 415-706-6428.

Photo by Kyle Bettis.

The Park Presidio-Sunset Lions Club has been serving the west side for the past 75 years.

For more information about Lions Clubs International, monthly meetings and what we do for the community, call Paul at (415) 831-0461.

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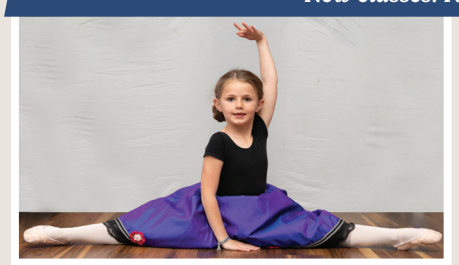

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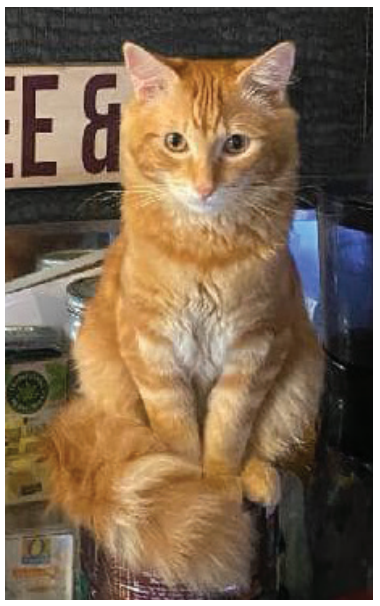

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Continued from page 11

cars. Establishing a full-time park will allow everyone to enjoy it whenever they have free time. Overall, the park will benefit all San Franciscans, with Sunset residents especially enjoying convenient access to it. That is why we are voting Yes on K.

Adrianna Zhang and grandparents, Outer Sunset residents

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

When I first heard about the proposal to close the Upper Great Highway permanently to cars, I wasn't quite sure how I felt about it. I was born in the Richmond, and am now raising two young kids in the Sunset. I was all-in for the JFK Promenade, but at first, the Upper Great Highway felt different. The current compromise – a park on weekends, open to cars on weekdays – didn't seem so terrible to me.

But then I learned that if Prop. K doesn't pass, the pilot program that allowed it to be a park on the weekends will expire, meaning it would go back to just being a road. That made me realize the stakes, because losing the Great Highway Park would be a massive loss for the community.

Car-free spaces in the city, including the Upper Great Highway, have made me feel so much more connected to the place that I live. I have come to really value the feeling of ease and presence I get in the spaces where I'm able to let go of the traffic vigilance I carry with me everywhere else, and just be with the people around me. I run into neighbors, my kids find playmates and I see strangers smiling at each other as everyone just enjoys the vibes.

Raising kids in San Francisco, it can sometimes feel like everyone is out to get you. I'm constantly worried about one of my boys getting hit by a car, or whether our elementary school will close. My parents in Marin keep telling me to just leave already, and sometimes I'm tempted.

But when we passed Prop. J to create the JFK Promenade, I realized that occasionally, things get dramatically better overnight. At the time, I joked that I'd leave the city if Prop. J failed, but instead we got a glorious 1.5-mile stretch of park where I can take my boys with no particular agenda, my 6 year old speeding ahead on his bike, my 3 year old getting an impromptu piano lesson from a pair of septuagenarians … this is street life in the best possible way.

Now we have the opportunity to do something similar along our beautiful coast, and I want to do everything I can to make sure we don't pass it up.

Lindsay Meisel

Editor:

Notice that Marjan Philhour misses the point when she castigates the legit criticism that she is accepting money from real estate moguls who want to end rent control.

She uses the word "boogeymen" when there is no "boogey" to the "men" that are actually truly in reality trying to end rent control because they are ideologically blind and have short term conceptions about what it means to have a vibrant urban economy.

In another excellent Mission Local post concerning the question about rent control and Prop. 33, each candidate was asked do they support rent control. Marjan's answer was equivocal. Apparently rent control is "important" BUT … then tossed out the corporate bromides about how Prop. 33 might about "inhibiting" development – which is complete pablum. Prop. 33 is just allowing local districts to "be able" to decide on how to implement rent control. It says absolutely nothing about property development or developer projects.

So let me get this straight: You support rent control but you don't support letting local government deciding on how handle or implement rent control measures?

That tells you everything you need to know about Marjan. She's trying to speak upwards while convincing those below of something else. She had an opportunity to define herself, and she chose to trot out the corporate misinformation. Mind you, these are large corporate landowning interests that purchase swaths of properties, regularly jack rents for no reason, and then pretend that they are "good stewards" for the properties they manage. She wants to pretend she is interested in representing the interests of the Richmond District, but all of the evidence is at best contradictory.

Connie Chan is at least genuine. And no one "owns" her.

Marjan? Not so much. That's why she still supports our current mayor who thinks you govern by press releases, talking tough into a microphone and having people sign pre-resignation letters before you appoint them to commissions where some of them oddly outsource expenditures for personal reasons and have been nabbed by FBI investigations.

Gino Napoli

Editor:

Here is why I'm voting to e-elect Connie Chan.

The Nov. 5 election offers two very different candidates for District 1 supervisor.

Connie Chan has represented District 1 for the past four years. Chan truly listens to her constituents and promotes public safety and planning issues improvements.

Marjan Philhour is running for the third time and has been endorsed by Together SF. Most people are not aware that Together SF urges the repeal of rent control and district elections. Chan supports rent control and district elections. The Nov. 5 election offers a stark choice between them. Vote for Connie Chan.

Nancy H. DeStefanis

Editor:

August's DNC has many of us in SF hopeful for the direction of our country – with a prevailing sentiment that we're all in this together and as one unified nation, we deserve a leader who supports the people first.

That's the feeling that has emerged at the local level in District 1 and that's why Marjan Philhour should be elected to the Board of Supervisors in November. It's time to oust the incumbent Supervisor Connie Chan as she firmly exemplifies how the district has been mishandled at City Hall by her small band of activists who claim progressivism as their platform but whose inexperience, naivete and misguided idealism achieve no real results for residents.

The leader we elected in 2020 (by a mere 123 votes) to lead this community we love continues to disappoint us. With little experience she remains impotent to addressing the mounting problems before her. Citywide issues continue to bleed into the neighborhood. Whether it's soaring housing costs and a lack of new development, the deadly open-air drug-crisis, or the lawlessness that has driven away tourists, residents and small businesses alike, we've witnessed a leader who has only exacerbated our biggest problems: homelessness, crime and economic insecurity. The recent small positive shifts we've seen are a testament to frustrated neighbors finally taking action themselves, in-spite-of, not because-of any actions or policies by the sitting supervisor.

A pandemic response required more than Chan's track record could deliver as a former legislative aide and translator. Her failures and squandered opportunities are pitted across the neighborhood – the shuttered and languishing Alexandria Theater, dangerous encampments advertising "free fentanyl" near schools and parks, kids and seniors not feeling safe to ride the bus due to violence, a 50% depleted local police force, and neighbors at battle over public street changes. She had countless opportunities to lead on all of these pressing issues, but instead of leadership, action plans and results, we got delays, division and deterioration.

The Richmond can no longer afford an ineffectual city leader who is visible and vocal only during election season, one who regularly votes against the will of the residents, choosing instead to vote with the City's entrenched non-profit activists who oppose results-oriented civic governance.

Connie opposed the DA and School Board recalls. She aligned with the Coalition on Homelessness to hinder encampment cleanups. She fought the use of new police technologies. She was the public face of a failed "cop-tax." She blocked development of the Alexandria Theater at every turn, threatening historical protections to strong-arm the owner into hanging a banner on the marquee to suggest housing was coming soon, when in fact, it's not coming anytime soon on her watch.

We need a qualified leader in City Hall who is focused on its people and its problems, one who advocates for practical solutions that get implemented, not sweeping proclamations, photo-ops, non-answers, and a litany of unreturned emails and phone calls. Moreover, we need a leader who will invigorate and energize our neighborhood in new ways – attract investment and energy, activate public spaces, bring neighbors together with joy, improve public safety while representing and listening to all Richmond District neighbors, not just those who vote for her.

The thousands of neighbors who know Marjan Philhour have seen her doing these things her entire career. She's the candidate who conceded to Connie in 2020 because she held the interests of the Richmond District higher than her own.

Results matter. It's time for our neighborhood and our city to move forward. Let's not make the same mistake twice.

Mark Dietrich

Editor:

There is a lot of talk about moderates and progressives this election. As soon as someone starts talking about moderates and progressives in city government, you can be sure that person is out to spread misinformation and sow discord among neighbors. They want to create artificial villains to suit their own political purposes. Don't listen to them; they have a political agenda that has nothing to do with the complex realities of life in our City.

Marjan Philhour and her husband have both worked for London Breed and Marjan will be nothing but a rubber stamp for what Breed wants, if either of them get elected. London Breed is funded and supported by Silicon Valley billionaire Ron Conway and it's his interests that she looks after, not ours. Marjan's campaign is supported by billionaire-funded Political Action Committees (PACs) that think they can buy our city government – PACs like TogetherSF, GrowSF and ConnectedSF. If elected, Marjan will be working for their interests, not ours.

Stand strong for the Richmond! Vote for Connie Chan, an independent and honest voice; one that won't sell out our community. Connie is smart, capable and experienced and truly cares about the Richmond. Tell the billionaires that the Richmond can't be bought.

David Romano

Editor:

Ten or 15 years ago, it would have been inconceivable that a felon who sexually abused a woman could run for president. A person who said that Hitler had some good ideas, that immigrants poison the blood of the country and that the opposing political party is the "enemy within" would have had a snowball's chance in hell of winning. The public would not have tolerated that behavior from a candidate.

Those who remember Trump's presidency fondly must have amnesia about 2020. Everything was closed for most of that year. People could not go to work. They could not send their kids to school. In April 2020, unemployment was 14.7%. A million people died from COVID-19. While this was happening, Trump told the public, in essence, to ignore it and it would just go away. He joked about injecting bleach.

2020 was an awful year. Not just because of COVID-19, but because of the rioting and division in the country after George Floyd was killed. Trump, in usual fashion, blamed the Democrats and refused to take responsibility for either problem.

Looking forward, he proposes tariffs across the board for imported products – and almost everything is imported these days. If you put a 10% tariff on a $1,000 refrigerator, it becomes an $1,100 refrigerator and you pay the tariff.

There is no reason to vote for this man that is based on reality, facts, or reason. It is pure tribalism, us versus them, our team is better than your team.

A sad time in the history of our country.

Scott Kiddy

Editor:

San Francisco deserves a powerful and dynamic CSU campus.

San Francisco State University (SFSU) is essentially shutting down its first- and second-year writing program. We should all be outraged – and we should demand better.

In the past year, 27 faculty members have been let go, and in the last two years 103 early-writing classes have been slashed. The decision to cut back on writing requirements and raise course caps leaves SFSU and our students ill prepared for the future. Early-year writing programs in college serve many functions. They help students develop strong reading, writing and critical thinking skills that serve

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Housing Upzoning

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along traffic arteries and commercial corridors to six, eight or as much as 14 stories on certain corner lots.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, who is running for mayor against Breed, says her programs are unnecessary and do not help.

"We have 73,000 fully approved, fully entitled, shovel-ready projects in the pipeline that aren't being built, not because of NIMBYs, not because of the Board of Supervisors but because interest rates are at a historical high and the profit isn't there and the projects don't pencil out," Peskin said.

"The state mandates are not helping with the number one issue that is most important, which is building housing that our teachers and our nurses and our bus drivers and everyday San Franciscans, our cops, our firefighters can afford to live in," he said.

Katherine Petrin said she is an architectural historian and preservation planner who has been dealing with the City's Planning Department and developers on various projects for many years, and that experience plus her own research has led her to reject the doomsday scenarios about this metropolis.

"The prevailing false narrative begins with the premise that San Francisco has failed. We don't accept that and that's our starting point," Petrin said. "Our housing production record is much better than what the dominant, overly simplistic narrative portrays."

She admits that SF has extraordinarily long timelines compared to other cities for administering "pre- and post-entitlements." Entitlements are issued to approve building construction for a specific use and often involve informing neighborhoods and communities through public hearings and various other city meetings.

"But since 2005, San Francisco has produced over 51,000 new housing units, and of that number, 15,000 are affordable, that's 29% of the total overall production since 2005," Petrin said. "We increased our overall housing stock. We have 414,000 units of housing in San Francisco, from single-family homes to apartments and multi-unit buildings, that we have built over a century, and since 2005 we increased our overall housing stock by 14%.

"At the same time our population increased by 3.9%."

Between 2018 and 2022 SF built the second-highest number of units in the state per capita after Los Angeles, she said.

"In 2017 the state of California declared a housing crisis, which allows Sacramento to override the state's charter cities' rights to make their own decisions about land use and zoning controls," Petrin said. "Since then, we have seen over 300 housing laws, largely driven by State Sen. Scott Wiener, and this is what these laws do:

"They mandate significant and unattainable increases in housing production. They promote density bonuses, density decontrol and upzoning. And these policies, when taken together, can lead to unpredictable height increases.

"These laws also lack any funding for affordable or necessary infrastructure," she said.

By "streamlining" the process, they also remove some of the checks and balances now in place.

"Projects that take advantage of the state density bonus now require the approval of one person, that's the Planning Director of San Francisco. No longer will the Planning Commission review, that doesn't come into play for state density bonus projects," Petrin said.

"The use of the state density bonus, together with density decontrol, and when combined, these policies allow for developments that can be three times the height of the area's zoning."

She also sees the threat of displacement by removing the checks currently practiced that allow local residents to have a say in what the developers do in the neighborhoods San Francisco citizens live in.

"Public input and citizen discourse is stifled. These laws eliminate neighborhood notification and curtail public input, review processes and appeals processes," she elaborated. "They weaken protections for historic resources. They allow permits to be issued over the counter, with no notification and no public hearing and our voices in our city's planning have been eliminated.

"We used to receive notices the old-fashioned way about neighborhood projects; we'd get a notification. But now, the first notification is when the porta potty shows up next door."

Petrin also claims that the state's demand to build 82,000 units by 2031 does not fit the present reality.

"Information released by the California Department of Finance last week now projects that San Francisco can expect just 26,067 new residents by 2031."

Yet, projecting future population growth is a bit like looking into a crystal ball with a measuring tape in hand. While metrics are important, there are always enough variables at play to distort the overall image.

Other estimates, like a recent AI estimate by Aterio, show the City's population increasing by 38,646 in 2030. Meanwhile the World Population Review projects a population increasing to 969,000 in San Francisco by 2035.

But all these projections come with a big caveat: Because of the pandemic, the 2020 census is highly suspect.

"The mandate to build 82,000 units by 2031 was calculated pre-pandemic, in 2019, and it then estimated a 20% increase in San Francisco's population of over 200,000 new residents, not 26,000 new residents," Petrin said.

Ozzie Rohm of the San Francisco Tenants Union addressed the threat to rent controlled apartments through a process she calls "renoviction."

"The proposal to double, triple height limits along these corridors, it will become more enticing for owners to demolish their properties, to build taller and bigger buildings, than to run a retail business. And that means a loss of affordable rent-controlled units above these stores."

She calls what can happen next "renoviction."

"What's fairly common is that new owners use the excuse of renovation to get rid of tenants rather that going through the eviction process with the Rent Board because it's easier and tenants have little recourse," Rohm said. "They show up with an approved permit and your life, well, I guess you're going to have to leave because you have no other choice."

District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan, an incumbent facing several challengers for her seat on Nov. 5, warned that land speculators are already knocking at the door in anticipation of the new upzoning.

"The speculator Realtors are here. They are looking for ways to sell and buy. They are ready to do that to the Richmond," Chan said. "Today I'm here to say the Richmond is not for sale; San Francisco is not for sale.

"They only see the numbers. They don't see us, the people and our beloved small businesses."

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them in and out of the classroom and for the rest of their lives.

SFSU has a great writing program full of specially trained instructors who have dedicated their careers to the art of teaching these skills to the complex and wonderful body of students arriving on campus eager to learn and grow. In a large university, these small classes are a rare opportunity to build a learning community, make friends and develop relationships with instructors. This has always been super important, but is even more so in the face of the dramatic reading loss we have seen since the re-opening of schools.

This loss is documented in a November 2023 report by Ebony Walton of the National Center for Education Statistics.

Yes there are problems.

Demographic shifts, partnered with increasing doubts about the value of higher education are leading to shrinking enrollment in many colleges – private and public.

What do you want to do about them?

California is faced with the question: Do we respond to this by contracting our CSU programs, or do we re-think what higher education looks like and decide to invest in our young people by offering robust and innovative approaches that attract them.

The research is clear. College degrees, especially from affordable public colleges, have great returns on investment.

The Public Policy Institute of California verified for us in March of 2023 that in 2021 a worker with a bachelor's degree earned 62% more than one with only a high school diploma. And that figure goes up when you add a graduate degree.

Letters to the Editor

They also build out economies. Educated parents, workers and neighbors have more agency and make more careful choices. This is better for everyone. It is good for the economy and it is good for the community.

Do we want to live in a society that educates and supports learning, or one that shuts it down?

Certainly the current leadership at SFSU has decided to shut things down. Touting a "pivot to a smaller university," SFSU President Lynn Mahoney's vision includes larger classes, massive layoffs and fewer resources. To some of us, this is not only a violation of the University's commitment to social justice, but also a colossal failure of leadership. Instead, SFSU should be built up.

SFSU has so much to offer. We have great nursing, education, business, film, ethnic studies, theater and arts programs. We offer working-class families a chance to give their kids a middle-class profession. We offer more affluent families a chance to give their kids an affordable education in which they interact with people from all over the world, with a wide range of life experiences.

SFSU and SF leadership should be launching joint projects about how to build out SFSU to offer meaningful educational opportunities in this complex period. The possibilities are rich – accelerated BA and MA programs, community collaborations with schools, arts organizations and businesses. There are powerful ways to meet the changing needs of today's youth for those of us committed to the project. We are a dynamic, innovative, creative city full of people from all over the world who came here to build something great. We deserve a state university that serves us better.

Jennifer Beach

Editor:

San Francisco's public schools are in chaos – budget shortfalls, school closures, staffing shortages and frustrated families. The failed school closure rollout, which sparked protests and ultimately led to the superintendent's resignation, is just the latest in a series of crises. We need leadership that can handle the urgent financial crises while focusing on student achievement. I'm running for the Board of Education to bring fiscal responsibility and real solutions to SFUSD.

As a proud SFUSD graduate who grew up in the Richmond and Sunset districts, attending Argonne Elementary, Presidio Middle School and Lowell High, I know what's at stake. Over the past few years, I've worked tirelessly to hold the district accountable, leading efforts to reinstate the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee to ensure billions in bond funds are spent effectively. I've worked on the Civil Grand Jury to improve teacher hiring and retention and fought to pass Proposition G, bringing back middle school algebra, so every student has the opportunity to succeed.

From day one, I was involved in the School Board recall effort, gathering hundreds of signatures to demand accountability. I've seen first hand how mismanagement has let our schools fall into crisis, and I'm committed to getting the district's finances in order and restoring trust in the system.

In addition to fiscal responsibility, I will fight for immigrant families by expanding language immersion programs and ensuring that any school closures are handled transparently, with full community involvement. We must restore trust in the system and build schools that serve every family in our diverse city.

We're at a critical moment, and we can't afford more mismanagement. With your vote, I'll bring fiscal discipline, a focus on student achievement, and a commitment to better serve our diverse communities. Let's get SFUSD back on track.

Laurance Lem Lee, candidate for School Board, leeforsfschoolboard.com

Editor:

I've never felt more disappointed in our leadership than I do today under Supervisor Connie Chan. It's time to dispel the notion that Connie Chan has our best interests at heart. As someone who is deeply invested in the safety and well-being of this neighborhood, I am compelled to speak out – and to offer my support to a candidate who truly embodies our values: Marjan Philhour.

Unlike Supervisor Chan, Marjan Philhour has been a consistent advocate for public safety, small businesses, and education – values that align with what we want for our neighborhood. Marjan has deep roots here in the Richmond and understands the importance of creating a clean, safe and vibrant community for everyone. She doesn't just talk about supporting the police. She takes action to ensure our officers have the resources they need to keep us safe.

San Francisco is at a crossroads, and our neighborhood deserves better than

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Legion of Honor Museum Features American Impressionist Mary Cassatt

By Klyde Java

On Oct. 5, the Legion of Honor opened "Mary Cassatt at Work," a new retrospective exhibit detailing the life and work of American Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt. This is the first retrospective of Cassatt's work in North America in 25 years. The Legion of Honor is the sole west coast venue. The exhibit was organized by the Philadelphia Museum of Art in conjunction with the Legion of Honor and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

The opening event, "A Conversation on Mary Cassatt at Work," featured the Legion's curator of European paintings, Dr. Emily Beeny, as well as art historian Dr. Nicole Georgopulos. The presentation was held in the museum's Gunn Theater.

Born in 1844 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania to an upper-class family, Cassatt was admitted to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts at the age of 15. Known by her family for her strong aspirations to become an artist, Cassatt moved to Paris to pursue her career and lived in France until she died in 1926. Cassatt's family allowed her to have an art career on one stipulation set by her conscientious father.

"An 1878 letter from (Cassatt's) father, Robert, grants us insight into these terms as well as his daughter's feelings about them. Quote, 'I have said that the studio must at least support itself. That makes Mame (Mary) very uneasy,'" Georgopulos said.

But this financial restriction did not affect Cassatt's creativity. It enhanced it.

"Little Girl in a Blue Armchair," 1877–1878 by Mary Cassatt (1844-1926). Oil on canvas. National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon. ***Image courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.***

She often used her siblings to model for her and portrayed the mundane activities of women living in the 19th century. Domestic scenes such as a mother coddling her child, or children playing, were common motifs throughout Cassatt's work.

One such example can be found in "Maternal Caress" (1896) which portrays a tender moment between a mother and her infant. This ability to illustrate the beauty of domestic life is ubiquitous in Cassatt's work.

Cassatt appeared to be a natural candidate to be a mother due to the content of her work, but she never bore a child, believing that a family would hinder her career, echoing a modern sentiment. Regardless of her lack of children, her bold depictions of motherly joy and free-spirited toddlers captured the hard but rewarding work of caretaking.

"Cassatt produced images of women's work. By which I mean, knitting and needlepoint, bathing children and nursing infants that also testify to the work of the woman who made them," Beeny said.

Despite being the only American to be exhibited along with the Impressionists, Cassatt's place in art history can be summed up as overlooked. While her French contemporaries such as Edgar Degas and Édouard Manet were highly regarded, Cassatt herself remains an afterthought of the Impressionist movement. A persistent criticism of Cassatt's work is the repetitive nature of her subject matter. But the supposed repetition of Cassatt is not a unique characteristic.

"Regarding her pairs and trios of mother, babies and children, we might do well to remember the endless Mount Sainte-Victoire landscapes of Cézanne and the recurring water lily ponds of Monet," Beeny said.

Though Cassatt's eyesight began to fade after the beginning of the 20th century, she continued to paint until her death.

What Cassatt can be remembered for was that she pushed herself to work, a rare sight in the 19th century.

"What I want is the freedom to work," she wrote to her art dealer, Paul Durand-Ruel in an 1894 letter.

Cassatt's ambition was emblematic of the archetype of the working woman. A colleague of the artist, Eliza Haldeman, remarked that she wanted to "paint better than the old masters." The courage to surpass the well-established masters makes Cassatt a master herself.

"'Mary Cassatt at Work' invites us to consider how the question of work arises in myriad ways throughout the artist's life and era and how that, in turn, allows us to reconsider her art historical legacy," Georgopulos said.

"Mary Cassatt at Work" will be on display at the Legion of Honor through Jan. 26, 2025. The museum is located at 100 34th Ave. Learn more at famsf.org/exhibitions/mary-cassatt.

"Maternal Caress," 1896 by Mary Cassatt (1844-1926). Oil on canvas. Philadelphia Museum of Art, Bequest of Aaron E. Carpenter, 1970. ***Image courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.***

Artwork on a wall at the "Mary Cassatt at Work" exhibit at the Legion of Honor. ***Photo by Klyde Java.***

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Richmond District Author Embraces Identity Through Children's Literature

By Shyna Deepak

A Richmond District resident since 1988, Stephanie M. Wildman is an accomplished children's book author and advocate for representation in children's literature. She is set to release her latest book, "Miri's Moving Day," on Nov. 5.

Wildman's latest work, written with co-author Adam Ryan Chang and illustrated by Dream Chen, explores the often overwhelming experience of moving homes through the eyes of a young girl navigating her multicultural identity as both Chinese and Jewish. Wildman draws inspiration from her personal experiences, particularly a poignant question posed by one of her grandsons: "Can I be Chinese and Jewish?"

This question led Wildman to reflect on the complexities of identity, especially for children grappling with their cultural backgrounds.

"His father answered and said, 'Yes, because you are,' but I could see he was trying to understand how he could be these two things," Wildman explained. This revelation sparked her desire to write stories about Chinese Jewish children, a group that is notably underrepresented in picture books.

Teaming up with Adam Ryan Chang, a collaborator with whom Wildman had previously presented at conferences, they initially crafted a story centered on a Chinese Jewish boy and his two grandmothers. Although this first manuscript received several "champagne rejections" – praises for its potential but ultimately no acceptance – they decided to pivot.

"We thought, what would happen if we just flipped it and made it a girl with two grandfathers?" This creative shift resulted in the birth of "Miri's Moving Day," allowing them to imagine what Miri's world would look like as she copes with change.

The story showcases Miri's loving family, represented by Yaya, the Chinese American grandfather, and Zaidi, the Jewish grandfather. They work together to ensure a smooth transition for her. Wildman emphasized that "the idea of representing a loving family that isn't conflicted over their cultural differences is also valuable." The book highlights the supportive dynamic within Miri's family, contrasting the often-stereotypical portrayals of cultural conflict in literature.

In addition to "Miri's Moving Day," Wildman is also promoting her Halloween-themed book, "Ghost Writer," which was released on Sept. 2.

"Even though it's technically out, it's sort of a seasonal book," she said, emphasizing the importance of timing for both her releases.

As part of her promotional efforts, Wildman has scheduled a series of readings, including a recent one at Black Bird Books in the Outer Sunset District. She values these opportunities to connect with her young audience directly.

Richmond District writer Stephanie M. Wildman is set to release her latest book written for children, "Miri's Moving Day." ***Courtesy photo.***

"I kneel down to their level when I talk to them," she said. "It's important to make it a two-way thing."

Wildman provides stickers and coloring pages to create an interactive experience, turning her readings into celebrations of storytelling.

Audience engagement has been positive, with parents and caregivers expressing their appreciation for her work.

"I've had several friends who are white send me pictures of their grandchildren who are children of color reading 'Brave in the Water,'" Wildman said.

This book features a mixed-race family and tells the story of a child overcoming their fear of putting their face in the water.

"The people who sent me these were happy to see that representation," she said, showcasing the significance of seeing diverse narratives reflected in literature.

For her upcoming readings, Wildman has scheduled events at various locations, including a special reading at the San Mateo Library for Dia de los Muertos on Nov. 2, and she will be participating in Litcrawl, a celebration of literature in San Francisco. Each event presents a unique opportunity for her to share her stories and engage with her audience, continuing the conversation about identity, family and change.

Wildman cited the works of several authors who inspire her, including Varian Johnson's "The Parker Inheritance" and Daniel Svetcov's "Parked." She appreciates books that tackle important themes while being accessible to readers of all ages.

"I think a good book is a good book," she said,

Wildman advocates for the idea that picture books and middle-grade novels can resonate across age groups.

Through her work, Wildman continues to contribute to the growing dialogue surrounding representation in children's literature. Her passion for creating stories that resonate with children from diverse backgrounds is evident, as she aims to provide a sense of belonging and affirmation.

As she prepares for the release of "Miri's Moving Day," Wildman reflects on her journey as a writer and the impact of her work.

"I feel grateful to share these stories and help children see themselves," she said, her commitment to nurturing the next generation of readers shining through.

With both "Miri's Moving Day" and "Ghost Writer," Wildman's contributions to children's literature offer not only engaging narratives but also vital representation that fosters understanding and acceptance among young readers.

Learn more at stephaniewildman.com.

From the Editor

Michael Durand

Your Voice

You're holding another hefty issue this month. The October newspaper was 32 pages long – this month's issue is 24 pages. That's 56 pages of content supplied to you by our advertisers, donors and Patreon supporters. Please consider joining the sponsors to help support this neighborhood resource.

Our mission is comprehensive: We share news and feature stories about what's happening in our community, columnists share their thoughts, advertisers let you know about services and products available in our area and we let you know what's coming up each month. Special mention and thanks to cartoonist Paul and Jess the crossword puzzle maker who contibute their creativity.

This month, we are offering many more letters to the editor than usual. (Sorry for all the page jumps!) Since it is election season, I thought I'd give our readers a chance to tell their story and weigh in on current issues. All the letters printed here have been published on our website. Thank you to all who take the time to write.

I have also allowed exceptions to the length of the letters we published this month. Normally we limit the pieces to no more than 350 words in the paper, 500 online. Consider the election season the holiday season for opinions. Time to splurge.

The paper is also bigger because we have some new writers who have come forward and are adding their work to the local newspaper and website. It is important to me to encourage writers and I am so grateful to our talented contributors. Thank you all.

Michael Durand is the editor and publisher of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers and the RichmondSunsetNews.com website. He can be reached at Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Letters to the Editor

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the status quo. We are tired of the rhetoric and obstruction that have plagued City Hall for far too long. Marjan Philhour offers a clear vision for the future, one rooted in competent leadership and a commitment to listening to the people she serves. She understands that being a supervisor means taking action and delivering results, not just attending photo ops or making empty promises. If we want to restore trust, safety and prosperity to the Richmond District, we need leaders who represent our values and will fight for us every step of the way.

This November, the choice for the Richmond District could not be clearer. If you think the Richmond is better off today under Supervisor Chan's leadership, vote for the incumbent. If you do not feel that the Richmond is better off today, then I urge my neighbors to join me in supporting Marjan Philhour for supervisor. Together, we can reclaim our neighborhood and chart a new course toward a safer, stronger, and more vibrant future.

Sam Hom

Alleged Assault

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ing" across a table at her during a Feb. 1 business security summit at City Hall. She said her fear of Heller led her to pursue the restraining order to keep him away from her family, including her husband and two children.

"I will not accept the political bullying that has stopped so many from getting involved in our neighborhood. And I know I will face criticism for speaking out, but I've had enough of this," Philhour posted on Sept. 17 on X (formerly Twitter).

Heller says he only spoke to Philhour at the security summit and denies lunging in a threatening manner. He claims Philhour is trying to publicize their interactions for political gain, since she is in a hotly contested race for District 1 supervisor against incumbent Supervisor Connie Chan. Heller is an outspoken supporter of Chan.

"If she was really worried about her safety, why did she postpone the court date until after the election," Heller said. "She's abusing the court for political gain."

San Francisco Taxpayers Association

Ballot Measures – Voting Recommendation

Your San Francisco Taxpayers Assoction, after thourough review of all 15 local and 10 state ballot measures, recommends the following taxpayer-affecting ballot measures:

Local Ballot Measures

• **Prop. A – NO.** Should we add new taxes of $3 billion, including interest, which will be paid off in fiscal year 2047-2048 by attaching parcel taxes to existing property taxes when we haven't yet paid off prior bonds or used the bond funds as voters intended? There is also a $10 billion state Education Bond to Repair Schools (Proposition 2) on the November 2024 ballot. With declining public school enrollment and questionable spending of past bonds, we should ensure we have a fiscally responsible School Board elected before approving more funds. Additionally, the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee needs to be empowered to fulfill its charge. We need full transparency and accountability and not what was discovered during COVID with the Oversight Committee's promises in the prior-approved Bond Measures non-existent. Voters have always been generous to public schools. ***It's time to vote NO on Prop. A!***
• **Prop B – NO.** Another bond, this one for homeless SF residents, and entitled "Community Health and Medical Facilities, Street Safety, Public Spaces, and Shelter to Reduce Homelessness Bond" will add more property taxes of $3.9 million, plus interest of $3.4 million over 30 years. Vote "no" and compel non-profit recipients to secure tax-deductible charitable contributions, from millionaires and billionaires. ***Vote NO on Prop. B.***
• **Prop C – NO.** This would add another City Hall office for an Inspector-General's Department while two other ballot measures ask voters to reduce such entities. We advise a "no" vote and rejection of this budget increase at least $725,000 annually. ***Vote NO on Prop. C.***
• **Props. D and E – YES, NO.** Proposition D sets a limit of 65 city commissions and saves taxpayers' money. Vote "yes," but reject a Board of Supervisors-spawned Prop. E which establishes a committee to study whether we have too many commissions. ***Vote YES on Prop. D, NO on Prop. E.***
• **Prop. F – NO.** Prop. F exemplifies City Hall's methods for approval to remedying a shortage of police officers. It would allow a cop to draw his or her retirement payments while still acting for five years as a paid police officer. It won't add a single officer, but fosters "double-dipping." ***Vote NO on Prop. F.***
• **Prop. G – NO.** Our controller points out that Proposition G "would have a significant impact on the cost of government in that it would reallocate funds that would otherwise be available, starting with at least $4 million in fiscal year 2026-2027… rising to a maximum of approximately $14 million in fiscal year 2045-2046." The purpose is a so-called Affordable Housing Opportunity Act. Taxpayers are being asked for their money to create yet another "set-aside" in the annual budget until 2047. The controller observes: "This proposed (Charter) amendment is not in compliance with a voter-adopted city policy regarding set-asides." ***Vote NO on Prop. G.***
• **Prop. H – NO.** Prop. H involves fire-fighters. There is no shortage and we like firefighters. Our controller concludes approval of Prop. H "would increase costs to the City" millions of dollars through fiscal year 2040-2041. We recommend rejection. ***Vote NO on Prop. H.***
• **Prop. I – NO.** We support Registered Nurses (RNs) and 9-1-1 operators, but Proposition I would exacerbate shortages of RNs and 911 operators. The latter's retirement law would abrogate the 20-year work requirement for a pension and substitute a mere five-year requirement. RNs would be able to retire three years early! Our controller finds that the annual costs of Prop. I would range from approximately $1.5 million to about $4.4 million per year and increase taxpayers' contributions accordingly. Regarding 9-1-1 operators, cost will increase to $2.3 million starting in 2025-2026 and continuing each year as the number of operators retire early at age 50. ***Vote NO on Prop. I.***
• **Prop. K – NO.**
The Great Highway exists because motor vehicle owners and drivers paid gasoline taxes for decades to pay for it. Park visitors didn't finance it. Bicycle riders never were taxed for it. Neither were walkers. Yet, the Board of Supervisors wants to prevent those financing the Great Highway by building a park and prohibiting all motorists, which renders it unavailable to senior citizens and disabled citizens. No money exists in our City's budget for any park project and Golden Gate Park is just steps away from the Great Highway. Closing the Great Highway to motor vehicles from noon on Friday to 6 a.m. on Monday represents a justifiable compromise which already exists. ***Vote NO on Prop. K.***
• **Prop. L – NO.** In 2022, San Francisco voters approved a hike in sales tax to fund Municipal Railway's related projects. By voting for that measure, we approved over $100 million dollars per year for the next 30 years for Muni. This proposition taxes Lyft, Uber and Waymo, and is just another money-grab for a failed Muni. It hasn't been two years since the 2022 ballot measure, and they are back in our wallets again. The Muni is worse than ever. Fare-dodgers, disruptive passengers, as well as other negative aspects of riding Muni have caused the numbers of passengers to tumble. Empty buses and streetcars abound; yet here we are facing another attempt to pump taxpayer money down this transit rat hole. All city businesses continue to suffer post pandemic. "For Lease" signs on commercial properties abound throughout the City. And now they want struggling businesses and the general public to pay another tax for Muni. ***Vote NO on Prop. L.***
• **Prop. N – NO.**
The SF Taxpayers Association fully supports first responders, Sheriff deputies, paramedics, nurses and 9-1-1 operators. This proposition, however, gives money to them for education and will further strain our deficit-ridden local budget. Additionally, there are many other worthy city employees and other departments excluded from such handouts. Favoring one sector of public employees would not be equal treatment for all. ***Vote NO on Prop. N.***
• **Prop. M – NO.** The mayor and the Board of Supervisors already have the taxpayers of San Francisco paying over one billion dollars per year for homeless related programs via the City budget. Now, they want to increase the taxes on already struggling businesses so they can spend even more on the homeless issue which has been a complete failure with the one billion dollars we have given them every year. Throwing more money at their failed program will only endorse bad management. The taxpayers deserve successful results on the money that continues to be spent yearly on the homeless before additional taxes burden the taxpayers. Send that message, ***Vote NO on Prop. M.***

State Ballot Measures

• **Prop. 2 – NO.** As the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association reminds taxpayers: A bond works like a government credit card (because) paying off that credit card requires borrowers to spend more of your tax dollars. For example, State Proposition 2 authorizes $10 billion in general obligation (G.O.) bonds for repair, construction and improving conditions of K-12 public schools (including charter schools), community colleges and career technical education programs. This taxpayer loan will, however, also cost taxpayers interest of about $500 million each year for 35 years (!) to repay this loan or $1.125 billion in total. Our children will be paying this for decades in a state with a government deficit of $77 million without Prop. 2 and other statewide bonds. ***Vote NO on Prop. 2.***
• **Prop. 4 – NO.** The state is already leveraged and in deficit. Additional borrowing should not be allowed. Water and wildfire mitigation expenses should be spent from the state budget and not interest-costing bonds. ***Vote NO on Prop. 4.***
• **Prop. 5 – NO.** Being saddled with a statewide deficit doesn't stop legislators who would inflict local taxpayers with debt for "affordable housing and infrastructure based on increased property taxes." Shifty legislators now ask us to lower the required voter approval for such expenditures from two-thirds to only 55%, another cute trick to burden local taxpayers.***Vote NO on Prop. 5.***
• **Prop. 33 – NO.** One of the last vestiges of small property ownership rights in California is to be able to rent your single-family property without excessive interference from state or local government. The present law protects the small property owner and makes it possible to pay for the upkeep, repair and mortgages on small rentals. Prop. 33 will further hinder rental construction because of the draconian measures written into Prop 33. Protect the rights of small property owners. ***Vote NO on Prop. 33.***
• **Prop. 35 – YES.** This ballot measure provides that the existing tax on managed health care insurance, which will otherwise expire in 2026, shall be permanent, if thereafter approved by the federal government. The tax provides money for medical treatment for low-income families with children, senior citizens, disabled people and other Medi-Cal recipients. It means increased money for Medi-Cal of $2 million to $5 billion annually and higher state costs of $1-2 billion each year for implementation. 99% of revenue must be used for patient care. There's no argument against Prop. 35 in the Voter Information Guide. ***Vote YES on Prop. 35.***
• **Prop. 36 – YES.** This voter-sponsored initiative in effect restores Penal Code prison and jail provisions which had encouraged "smash and grab" crimes, burglaries, (including auto thefts) and thefts in general. It's not only law enforcement and the courts which have been frustrated by the 2014 change in law to reduce penalties for thieves, but law-abiding citizens and California visitors who support Prop. 36. So do taxpayers. Convicted thieves will have an option to enter rehabilitation. Protect taxpayers and others. ***Vote YES on Prop. 36.***

Paid for by the San Francisco Taxpayer Association.
Judge Quentin L. Kopp (ret.), president, Peter Fatooh, vice president and Gina Tse-Louie, secretary-treasurer.